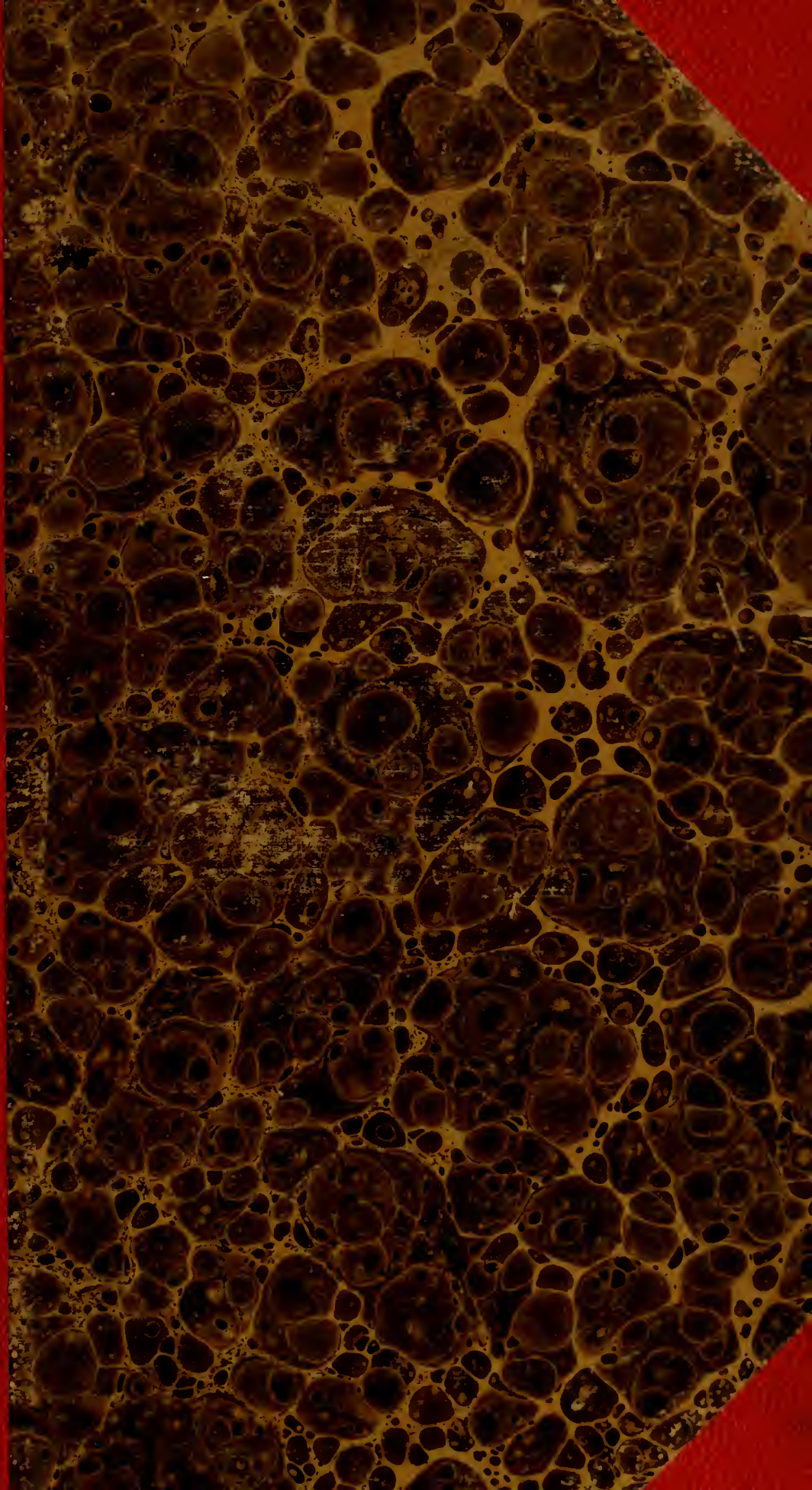

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THE

MEDICAL REPORTER.

VOL. III.—NO. 1. JULY, 1855.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

Proceedings of the Chester County Medical Society.

A stated meeting was held at West Chester, May 1st, 1855. President—Dr J. B. BRINTON, in the Chair.

Members Present—Drs. Thomas, Worthington, Gaston, Murphey, Parish, Townsend, Edge, Hartman, W. H. Worthington, Gunkle, Ogier, Bardin, C. E. Coates, Brooks, Swayne and Price.

Dr. Spencer of Phila. being present, gave to the Society a detailed and satisfactory elucidation of his views upon the atomic theory of life and heat, animal and vegetable as balenced by the agency of water—for which on motion of Dr. Parish, the thanks of the Society were tendered.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year, viz:—

President—DR. SEPTIMUS A. OGIER.

Vice Presidents—Drs. Joseph Hickman, William H. Worthington.

Cor. Sec.—Dr. C. W. Parish.

Rec. Sec.—Dr. Jacob Price.

Treasurer—Dr. Wm. D. Hartman.

Censors—Drs. Wm. D. Hartman, A. K. Gaston, J. B. Brinton.

Dr. Brinton delivered the annual address, for which the

thanks of the Society were tendered, and a copy requested for publication in the "Reporter."

Dr. Spencer presented to the Society, a copy of his "Lectures on animal heat," and "the transactions of the Medical Society of New York for 1852," and "for 1853." Messrs. Lindsay and Blackiston, presented two copies of "Rankins Abstract" for Jan. 1852, two of the "American Journal of Dental Surgery," and one of the "Medical Examiner," for all of which the thanks of the Society were returned.

The Committee to procure legal advice, submitted a written opinion from Joseph Hemphill, Esq., which was accepted and directed to be filed with the papers of the Society.

The Sanitary Committee submitted their annual report which was accepted, and directed to be forwarded to the State Society.

Drs. Isaac Z. Coffman, Wm. S. Latta, J. Howard Taylor and G. Chamberlain, were balloted for and elected members of the Society.

Drs. Jno. Brooks and Isaac Z. Coffman, paid their initiation fee and signed the Constitution.

Dr. Coffman proposed Dr. E. P. Heckel, of East Vincent, for membership.

Dr. Thomas read a bill, now pending before the Legislature, for the establishment of a Board of Medical censors, and submitted the following preamble and resolutions which were unanimously adopted.

Whereas, A Bill is now pending in the House of Repretatives of this Commonwealth for the establishment of a board of Medical censors; and *whereas* the said bill is so framed and constructed as to put the members of the medical profession to great and humiliating inconvenience, and would be calculated to drive many of our oldest and most respectable physicians and Surgeons from the profession, therefore it is *Resolved* that our Senator and Representatives are respectfully and earnestly requested to use all their influence to prevent the passage of said bill.

Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing, properly signed, be transmitted to our members of each branch of the Legislature.

Dr. Worthington read a remonstrance against the passage of the same bill, a copy of which, properly signed, was directed to be forwarded to our members in the State Legislature.

Dr. Worthington read a bill now pending in the Legislature relative to the regulation of fees to physicians for examinations in judicial cases. Dr. Thomas moved the following

preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted—

Whereas this Society has learned that a bill has been introduced into the Legislature of this Commonwealth, fixing the compensation of a Surgeon or Physician, making a post-mortem examination in judicial cases, at ten dollars; and regarding such a measure as an unwarrantable interference with the rights of Physicians to place their own estimate upon the value of their professional services, therefore, *Resolved* that the members of this Society, in the event of the passage of such an act, pledge themselves to refuse in all cases to perform such examination. *Resolved* that a copy of the foregoing, properly signed, be transmitted to our members in each branch of the Legislature.

On motion of Dr. Worthington, a tax of $2 00 upon each member was levied, for the purpose of meeting the present exigencies of the Society.

The following alteration to the Constitution was submitted, Sec. 1, Art 8, to read "two dollars" instead of "one dollar:" which lies over till next stated meeting.

Dr. Thomas, said that in consequence of the boasted success of Homœpathy in the treatment of the epidemic dysentery of this Borough and vicinity, during the last summer, he had been led to make inquiry as to the real facts of the case.—The result of his examination was that out of about two hundred and fifty cases treated by the regular physicians, *five or six* deaths occurred, while out of about a *dozen* cases treated *Homœpathically* there were an equal number of deaths.

The Committee to procure a room for the meetings of the Society, report that the proposal of Mr. Quay, of the White Hall Hotel, was the most advantageous to the Society. On motion it was agreed that the Society hereafter meet at the White Hall Hotel, and that the members dine together. The reading of Dr. Edge's paper was postponed till next stated meeting.

Drs. Brinton, Edge, Swayne, Thomas, Ogier, W. Worthington, W. A. Gunkle, Murphey and Parish were elected delegates to the State Society.

JACOB PRICE, Rec. Sec.

ADDRESS.

Gentlemen,—In withdrawing from my official position in this society, I desire to submit to you a few plain and practical observations, and I feel assured that you will receive

them with the same kind feeling and interest in the prosperity of the association which prompts me to utter them.

While we all admit that the code of medical etiquette, which we have adopted is full and excellent, I am afraid we must acknowledge that we fail to keep its requirements, with that constant attention which their real importance demands.

In the harrasing practice of our laborious profession, we sometimes omit, if we do not forget, that courtesy, that delicate feeling for each other, that *professional sympathy* which so much softens the unavoidable difficulties, and enhances the ennobling pleasures of a physician's life. Devoted as we are to the spread of scientific, medical and surgical information, searching in the various cases which fall into our hands, in the wide field of nature, and in our own personal experience, in multitudes of books, for the great truths which lie at the base of all real professional knowledge, we may forget that we are brethren, and regard each other as rivals.

It requires indeed, no little self-command when we are, or when we think we are discourteously treated by any one, to bear it with composure, but when those of our own profession, who ought to be our firmest friends, are rude, or insolent, or jealous, or malignant, it is peculiarly painful, and often engenders deep personal hostility, alike injurious to ourselves, and degrading to our dignified profession. With those fungi of the body medical, commonly known as "Empirics," there should be no quarter; "war to the knife," or rather with the scalpel, is our only safeguard against their often bold, but oftener insidious tactics. To unmask, to expose these pests of society, is a duty we owe to human nature, whose torture they have ever been. And we may hear, and often will hear great differences of opinion among ourselves, warm disputes, vehement arguments, but bitter words and bitter feelings towards each other, should have no place in the hearts, or on the tongues of the members of this, or kindred societies, I am not sure that we are not "irritable germs," that our professional sensitiveness is not too highly cultivated, and that what in the profession of armies is *esprit de corps*, with us becomes merely a question of personal feeling. But when we are devoting our lives to the discovery of means to alleviate the sufferings of the body, and are thus cultivating that noblest of sentiments, true charity, we may be producing among ourselves, a fastidious, if not a morbid self-love, which cannot brook even a suspicion of rivalry. The inscription on an ancient temple "know thyself," is fraught with as much meaning now, as it was more than eighteen centuries since, and

I can not but believe, that if any class of men above all others, should *know themselves*, it is our own. And if we made this knowledge a daily study, we would not only learn to reverence whatever we found true and virtuous in our own hearts, but the discovery of our own imperfections, would soften our resentments, and dispose us to view with pity and sincere forgiveness, the momentary irritability of our brethren.

Among us as in the world everywhere, more mischief is done, by the misrepresentation and misconception, than by real intended insult or injury, a hasty word is hastily carried to a brother physician, who is probably in equal haste to give a curt reply, and thus a spark kindleth a great fire, and ill feelings are cherished which often last through life.

We are unfortunately surrounded and beset by gossips, an insignificant class for good, but with the will and the power to do infinite mischief socially, and they seem to take a wicked pleasure in producing collisions between professional men. These whisperers, these tale bearers, are ever on the alert for a little slander, the least taint of corruption; indeed they seem to fatten on garbage. Contempt must be the predominant feeling in even naming such creatures. If we lend an ear to those who are illy disposed, we are more to blame than they. Youth is ever sanguine, the young practitioner ever lends a willing ear to words that are smooth and fair, and is thus led under the guise of friendship to express himself of a fellow practitioner in terms that will not bear repetition without giving offence.

We who have advanced into the calm vale of middle life, should not be too forgetful of those who are toiling up the steep and weary ascent. Let us encourage them to steady, close labor, as the only road to real usefulness or distinction. *Laborare est Vincere.* Writing makes the correct man, and many excellent ideas, and important facts are forgotten, because they are not committed to paper. We should especially press this on our youthful associates; it will be of great advantage to them and the profession.

We can each well remember with grateful emotion, the kind and encouraging words of some of our elder brethren, when we first launched our bark on the world's ocean,nor is it to be presumed that we can easily forget the cold look, the arrogant air, and supercilious manner of some of the learned seniors. We may however by our perseverance "have won the wise, who frowned before, to smile at last."

Let us one and all set our faces resolutely and unitedly against that spirit of innovation, of rash action, which too

much characterizes the present age. "The science of medicine is an essential part of true philosophy, and it must be illuminated by the light of experience, and to avoid the danger of being misled by fantastic theories, we must lose no opportunity of obtaining an accurate acquaintance with the various systems that were followed by all great civilized nations." There is nothing to fear for the ultimate triumph of truth, as it is ever victorious, but we owe it to the cause of truth ever to defend it against all attacks, but more especially against the assaults of its professed friends. Revolution in medicine is *impossible*, to change radically here is to destroy, and this undoubted fact should constantly be born in mind by all, but recommends itself more particularly to our juniors. The spirit of inquiry is not to be checked, but it should be directed to discover new phenomena, not to overthrow such as are already discovered; we may systematize the great principles of our profesion in a manner to meet our views, but we ought not, we *dare* not deny those principles, or modify their real essence.

The physician who is stimulated *only* by a desire for distinction, and is resolved to be a light, instead of being a reflector, may end by becoming an Empiric: In a foreign review there are words and sentences which may encourage us all, both juniors and seniors to stand by the great truths, and fixed principles of our profession. I quote. "We have seen power descend on those at whom the finger of scorn was pointed, and against whom all the artillery of power was brought to play, men who began life, as a contemptible and derided band, proscribed for their principles, have by steady adherence to them, raised themselves and their principles to public reputation and power. These things have come to pass, and teach us, after all, error, though arrayed in robes of state, and honored with authority, may melt like a summer cloud. They teach us to look with a less unquiet eye on the vicissitudes of human affairs, on the reverses which are suffered in the battles of the truth. In the revolutions of States, as of seasons, periods of darkness are given us, that we may the more prize the too neglected light.

Damna tamen celeres reparant cœlestia Lunæ. And not time and the tide only, but steadfastness and true hope will wear out the roughest day. We must all acknowledge the force and power of these words. I cannot now reccollect of a more striking instance than JENNER, whose life a distinguished cotemporary says, "ought to be as familiar as household gods to our young men." He was attacked as you know by

professional men in the high places, and a distinguished divine attempted to prove from Scripture, that the vaccine disease was the foretold Antichrist. After his triumph Jenner asked Napoleon by petition to liberate an Oxford student at Paris. Napoleon in his hurry of business, was about dismissing the application—when the Empress alluded to Jenner's name, "Jenner!" exclaimed the Emperor, ah! we can refuse nothing to that man!

We have a high and holy vocation, for not only are we set apart to minister to the diseases of the human family, but we are the selected depositories of great truths, and of principles of immeasurable value. It does indeed become us to worthily fill this high position and sedulously aid and encourage each other in the discharge of our full duties toward man. Is not a genuine spirit of professional courtesy of much advantage even in a business point of view, by preserving our minds calm, our judgments unwarped by passion, and by stimulating us to action, by that most ennobling impulse, the desire to benefit and gratify our professional associates. It is a law of our being, that benevolence (which includes courtesy) is its own reward. The recipient of our courtesy and kindness may be ungrateful, may even become our enemy, but that does not deprive us of the satisfaction of having done a good act, of having vindicated our own kindness and of discharging a duty to the character of our own profession. Sooner or later the reward will come in some shape; we may not possibly be sensible of it, but I hesitate not to say that genuine heartfelt courtesy is a safe investment and often yields enormous returns. It is very certain that Baron Larry and Sir Astly Cooper were greatly indebted to their admirable address and knowledge of mankind. It gave *opportunity* to their high intellect, without which many a man of true genius has died in neglect and obscurity.

I would now bring my address to a close by remarking, that we are often called together to stand by the bed-side of those whom we so greatly desire to save, our skill has been exercised to the utmost, but it is in vain, the Great Destroyer breathes upon our patient, and he is still. These scenes my friends, are well calculated to smooth all asperities, to quell all jealousies, and fix more deeply in our minds the importance of united efforts and the exercise of kindly feeling towards each other.

Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Delaware County Medical Society.

The annual meeting of the Delaware County Medical Society was held at the Charter House, Media, February 27, 1855. President Dr. ROBERT K. SMITH, in the chair.

The report of the Sanitary Committee for 1854, was read and approved.

Dr. C. J. Morton read the history of a case of Cholera Asphyxia successfully treated with Pounded Ice, which, on motion of Dr. George Smith, was directed to be published in the Medical Reporter.

The officers elected for the ensuing year are:

For President—Dr. MANLY EMANUEL.

Vice President—Dr. GEORGE SMITH.

Secretary—Dr. C. J. MORTON.

Treasurer—Dr. JOSEPH ROWLAND.

Editing Committee—Drs. C. S. HEYSHAM and C. J. MORTON.

Delegates to the American Medical Association—Drs. MORTON, and EMANUEL.

Delegates to the State Medical Society—Drs. MORTON, HEYSHAM, R. H. SMITH and R. K. SMITH.

C. J. MORTON, Secretary.

Proceedings of a Stated Meeting of the Delaware County Medical Society.

A stated meeting of the Delaware County Medical Society was held at the Charter House, Media, on May 29th, 1855. The President, Dr. M. EMANUEL, in the chair.

The minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

Drs. J. A. Thomson and G. B. Hotchkin, were proposed as members, and being present were duly elected; and signed the Constitution, and paid the initiation fee.

Dr. Emanuel reported having attended the American Medical Association.

A communication from Dr. Wilmer Worthington, stating the financial condition of the Medical Roporter, and containing a proposition from Henry S. Evans, for its publication, was received and acted upon.

The deficiency of the Delaware County Society was stated $19 58.

Dr. Rowland paid his yearly due, $1.

The matter of the Reporter coming up in its turn, it was

Resolved, That the subject be referred to the Editing Committee, with power to act.

On motion, the members of the Society were each taxed fifty cents, to make up the deficiency to Reporter. Drs. Heysham, Emanuel, Thomson, Owen, Rowland, Hotchkin and Robert K. Smith, paid each fifty cents under the above resolution.

On motion, adjourned. CHAS. S. HEYSHAM,
Secretary pro tem.

American Medical Association.

The Eighth Annual Meeting of this Association was held in Philadelphia, in the saloon of the Musical Fund Hall, which had been expressly fitted up for the occasion. The lower rooms of the Hall were appropriated to the use of committees, and in one of them there was placed, for the inspection of members, a very finely sculptured stone, designed as a contribution by the Association to the Washington Monument. On its face is a representation, in alto relievo, of Hippocrates refusing the presents sent to him by Artaxerxes with the design of inducing him to leave his country and give his professional aid to the subjects of Persia.

We make the following extracts from the proceedings published in the Medical News. There were 528 delegates present, representing 26 States. Delegates were also present from the United States Navy, and the Parisian Medical Society.

TUESDAY, May 1, 1855.

The session was opened this morning at 11 o'clock, the President, Dr. C. A POPE, of Missouri, in the chair; Drs. N. S. DAVIS, of Illinois, and JOHN, GREEN, of Massachusetts, occupied seats on either side. Drs. FRANCIS WEST, of Pennsylvania, and E. S. LEMOINE, of Missouri, Secretaries.

The President called the Association to order, and announced that the first order of business was the reception of the report of the Committee of Arrangement on the Credentials of Members.

Dr. Hays, chairman of that Committee, before presenting the report, begged leave on behalf of the medical profession of Philadelphia, to greet the members of the Association with a sincere and cordial welcome, and to assure them that every endeavor had been made to effect such arrangements as would facilitate the deliberations of the Association, promote the comforts of its members, and render their sojourn in Phila-

delphia agreeable. This, he stated, was a duty incumbent on the Profession of this city, and one which it was a source of gratification to them to perform. "Eight years," he said, "have elapsed since the Association was here organized, and our brethren in every city in which the Association has since met, have received our delegates with a generous and munificent hospitality which we dare not aspire to rival, and can scarcely hope to approximate. Should our effort then fall short of fulfilling our wishes, I must beg you to at least accept the assurance that it is our earnest *desire* to do every thing in our power to demonstrate our profound respect for the assembled wisdom of the noblest of Professions."

After the roll was called, upon motion of Dr. Biddle, of Pennsylvania, the President, Dr. C. A. Pope, was now requested to deliver the annual address.

At the close of the address, on motion of Dr. J. B. Biddle, of Pennsylvania, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of the Association be tendered to the President for his able and interesting address; and that he be requested to furnish a copy of it to the Committee of Publication.

Dr. Hays, of Pennsylvania, stated that the Committee of Arrangements had proposed certain plans which would require the sanction of the Association for their accomplishment, and with this view he would offer a resolution that the Association hold one session daily, commencing at 9 o'clock, A. M., and terminating at 3 o'clock, P. M., with a recess during the hour of from 1 to 2 P. M. The resolution was adopted.

Dr. Hays then stated it was proposed by the Committee of Arrangements, that the Members of the Association should visit *this* afternoon, the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane; on *Wednesday* afternoon, Girard College and Fairmount; on *Thursday* afternoon, Philadelphia Hospital, Blockley; on *Friday* afternoon, the Asylum for the Blind; and that arrangements had been made for conveying the members to those institutions.

Dr. Hays further stated that the Mayor of the city invited the Association to a reception at Independence Hall, at noon on Wednesday; and that invitations had been extended to the members to visit, at their convenience, the principal Public Institutions of the city, to all of which the cards of membership of the Association would secure admission.

That the members were invited, on *Tuesday* evening, to the houses of Drs. H. L. Hodge, G. W. Norris, and F. Bache; on *Wednesday* to the houses of Drs. G. B. Wood,

A. Stillé, and J. R. Paul; on *Thursday* evening to the houses of Dr. S. Jackson, Mr. Isaac Lea, Drs. J. Pancoast, and H. Hartshorne.

On motion of Dr. J. B. Biddle, of Pennsylvania, it was *Resolved*, That a committee of one member from each State represented be chosen by the respective delegations of each State, to nominate officers for the ensuing year.

A recess of five minutes was taken to enable the delegations to carry out the object of the above resolution.

At the termination of the recess the Association was called to order, when each of the delegations reported their representative on the Nominating Committee as follows:—

Maine, A. J. Fuller; *New Hampshire*, Silas Cummings; *Vermont*, G. T. Elliott; *Massachusetts*, C. P. Fiske; *Rhode Island*, Jos. Mauran; *Connecticut*, P. A. Jewett; *New York*, John McCall; *Pennsylvania*, J. B. Biddle; *New Jersey*, Lewis Condict; *Delaware*, James W. Thompson; *Maryland*, Charles McGill; *District of Columbia*, Thomas Miller; *Virginia*, B. R. Wellford; *North Carolina*, O. F. Manson; *South Carolina*, P. C. Gaillard; *Georgia*, Richard D. Arnold; *Alabama*, P. H. Cabell; *Tennessee*, J. Berrien Lindsley; *Kentucky*, C. J. Blackburn; *Ohio*, R. Hills; *Indiana*, Joel Pennington; *Illinois*, J. V. Z. Blaney; *Michigan*, A. B. Palmer, *Missouri*, L. P. Perry; *Iowa*, J. E. Lamborn; *Wisconsin*, J. B. Dousman; *U. S. Navy*, Thomas Dillard.

Dr. La Roche, on behalf of the Committee on Prize Essays, reported that the committee had received six essays in competition for the prize offered by the Association. That, although these essays evinced much ability and extensive learning, but one was decided to possess those qualities which deserved the award of the prize. The essay was entitled "Statistics of Placenta Prœvia." The accompanying envelope was opened, and the name of the author was announced as Dr. James D. Trask, of White Plains, New York.

On motion of Dr. Condie, it was

Resolved, That the essays be referred to the Committee on Publication.

The Committee on the Prevailing Diseases of Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa, Dr. Rayburn, Chairman, presented their report with an abstract of the same, which last was read, and the former was, on motion, referred to the Committee on Publication.

The regular order of business was here interrupted, by permission, in order to receive the report of a special committee, when Dr. White, on behalf of the committee to which was re-

ferred certain resolutions in regard to the duties and privileges of permanent members, reported the following resolutions, which were adopted:—

Resolved, That no permanent member, who is not present at a meeting of the Association, shall be required to pay the annual assessment; but no such permanent member shall be entitled to receive a copy of the printed *Transactions* unless he pay into the treasury a sum not less than the annual assessment paid by the delegates and permanet members in attendance; and that all the names of permanent members that have been left off the published list, be re-inserted therein in the next volume of the *Transactions*.

Resolved, That no assessment whatever shall be made against members by invitation, but that they also be entitled to a copy of the printed *Transactions* by paying the sum assessed upon delegates in attendance.

Dr. Charles Hooker, of New Haven, Connecticut, read a report on the Diet of the Sick, which was referred to the Committee on Publication.

Dr. Sanford B. Hunt, of Buffalo, New York, submitted a report from the Committee on the Hygrometrical state of the atmosphere in various localities, and its influence on health. Referred to the Committee on Publication.

Wednesday, May 2.

The Association met at 9 o'clock, Dr. Pope, of Missouri, in the chair.

Dr. Atlee, of Pennsylvania, announced, on behalf of a committee of which he was the chairman, the completion of the stone ordered to be prepared as a contribution, on behalf of the Association, to the Washington Monument.

Dr. J. B. Biddle, of Pennsylvania, Chairman of the Committee of one from each State to nominate officers for the present year, reported the following as the unanimous nomination of the Committee:—

President.—GEO. B. WOOD, M. D., of Pennsylvania.

Vice Presidents.—WM. M. BOLING, of Alabama; DANIEL TILDEN, of Ohio; D. HUMPHREY STORER, of Massachusetts; GRAFTON TYLER, of the District of Columbia.

Secretaries.—FRANCIS WEST, of Pennsylvania; R. C. FOSTER, of Tennessee.

Treasurer.—CASPER WISTER, of Pennsylvania.

Committee on Publications.—FRANCIS G. SMITH, of Pennsylvania, Chairman; FRANCIS WEST, of do.; SAML. L. HOL-

LINGSWORTH, of do.; H. F. ASKEW, of Delaware; SAMUEL LEWIS, of Pennsylvania.

The committee also recommended, but not unanimously, *Nashville*, Tennessee, as the next place of holding the annual meeting. After some discussion, *Detroit* was substituted for Nashville. Dr. Foster then tendered his resignation as one of the secretaries, and *Wm. Brodie*, of Michigan, was chosen to fill the vacancy.

Dr. Frank H. Hamilton, of Buffalo, New York, read an abstract of a report on the Frequency of Deformities in Fractures. The report was referred to the Committee on Publication.

On motion of Dr. Hintze, it was

Resolved, That a Committee of one from each State be appointed by the chair to use their influence with the railroad and steamboat companies, in their respective States, to issue commutation tickets to the delegates to the American Medical Association, and their immediate families, who may design attending the meeting of the Association in May, 1856.

The following were appointed the committee:

Maine, Dr. E. R. Peaslee; *New Hampshire*, Dr. Josiah Crosby; *Vermont*, Dr. J. Perkins; *Massachusetts*, Dr. J. Homans; *Rhode Island*, Dr. Jos. Mauran; *Connecticut*, Dr. P. A. Jewett, Chairman; *New York*, Dr. J. P. White; *Pennsylvania*, Francis West; *New Jersey*, Lyndon A. Smith; *Delaware*, James W. Thompson; *Maryland*, F. E. B. Kintze, Sec.; *District of Columbia*, Grafton Tyler; *Virginia*, B. R. Wellford; *North Carolina*, O. F. Manson; *South Carolina*, R. F. Michel; *Georgia*, R. D. Arnold; *Alabama*, W. M. Boling; *Tennessee*, J. B. Lindsley; *Kentucky*, C. J. Blackburn; *Ohio*, Daniel Tilden; *Illinois*, Rudolphus Rouse; *Missouri*, Charles A. Pope; *Iowa*, J. E. Sanborn; *Wisconsin*, J. R. Bartlett; *Michigan*, Zina Pitcher.

The hour of 12 M. having now arrived, a recess of one hour was taken, and the Association proceeded to the reception by the Mayor at Independence Hall.

Dr. ISAAC HAYES, of Philadelphia, on behalf of the Committee of Arrangements, introduced the members of the Association, in a neat and appropriate address. The Mayor responded in a speech, distinguished for beauty and eloquence.

The Association re-assembled at 1 o'clock, when on motion of Dr. Davis, of Illinois, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of the Association be gratefully returned to the Mayor of the city of Philadelphia, for the very cordial reception extended to it in Independence Hall, and also

that a copy of his very eloquent address, and that of the Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, be requested for publication in the *Transactions* of the Association.

On motion of Dr. Askew, of Delaware, the rules of order were suspended for the purpose of allowing Dr. J. W. Thompson, of Delaware, to offer the following preamble and resolutions:

Whereas, That as few subjects of greater interest and importance could be presented to the consideration of the American Medical Association, now representing most of the States and Territories in the Union, than the attainment of a correct Medical Tipography of each, with a history of its prevailing fevers and most successful treatment of the same, therefore be it

Resolved, That with this view and conviction, this Association appoint a Special Committee for each State and Territory represented, of ——— members, whose duty it shall be to report upon its medical topography, epidemic fevers, and the most successful treatment thereof, and that the same shall continue to hold their office for three years.

Resolved, That as other States and Territories not now represented, become so by delegates duly appointed to this National Association, that similar committees shall be appointed for like purpose, and that they also shall hold their office for three years.

Resolved, That in the appointment of gentlemen of education and the experience in the affairs of their own State, we have the best guarantee that the important objects we seek will be more satisfactorily accomplished, and the profession as well as the public interest will thereby be better served.

Resolved, That the committees heretofore appointed by this Association, at its session in Charleston, for a similar object be, and the same are hereby discharged.

On motion of Dr. Askew, of Delaware, the foregoing preamble and resolutions were ordered to lie on the table and made the special order for to-morrow at 10 o'clock.

Dr. Earle, of New York, presented the report of the Committee on Publication, which was accepted, and, on motion, the following preamble and resolution accompanying it were adopted:—

In view of the delay in publication, which is liable to be occasioned by the reference to the Committee on Publication, of reports and other papers of which abstracts alone are present-

ed to the Association, the committee would recommend for adoption the following resolution:

Resolved, That hereafter, beginning with the session for 1856, no report or other paper shall be entitled to publication in the volume for the year in which it shall be presented to the Association, unless it be placed in the hands of the Committee on Publication, on or before the first of June.

On motion of Dr. Watson, of New York, it was

Resolved, That one thousand dollars be appropriated to defray the expenses incurred by the committee in preparing the stone for the Washington Monument, and that the balance necessary to make up the said sum beyond the money already collected by the committee, be drawn from the funds in the treasury prior to the opening of the present session.

Resolved, That Dr. Atlee, Chairman of the Committee, be authorized to draw upon the treasurer for the sum necessary to make up the balance.

Dr. W. H. Byford, of Evansville, Indiana, made a report on the Pathology and Treatment of Scrofula. An abstract of it was read, and the report was referred to the Committee on Publication.

Dr. N. S. Davis, of Chicago, Illinois, made a report on the Nutritive Qualities of Milk, and the influence produced thereon by Pregnancy and Menstruation, in the Human Female, and by Pregnancy in the Cow; and also on the question whether there is not some mode by which the nutritive constituents of milk can be preserved in their purity and sweetness, and furnished to the inhabitants of cities in such quantities as to supersede the present defective and often unwholesome modes of supply. The report was read, and referred to the Committee on Publication, and the Committee was continued.

The following preamble and resolutions were offered by Dr. W. J. C. Duhamel, of Washington, D. C., and adopted:

Whereas, The cause of humanity, and a due regard to public health, imperatively demand the speedy enactment of further and more stringent quarantine laws to prevent the spread of infectious diseases through the country; and, *whereas*, distinguished legislators have co-operated with the medical profession in bringing this important subject to the attention of Congress, therefore

Resolved, That warmly approving of the bill introduced at the last session of Congress, (and yet pending,) to prevent sickness and mortality on shipboard, we cordially tender to the honorable Senators of the special committee, who so ably and earnestly advocated the measure, this expression of our

sincere thanks for their unwearied exertions in behalf of the bill framed after the manner recommended by this Association, and yet indulge in the gratifying hope that their efforts in the cause of public welfare and of suffering humanity will be crowned with success.

Resolved, That the aforesaid preamble and resolutions be forwarded by the officers of the Association to the authorities at Washington.

Thursday, May 3, 1855.

Upon motion of Dr. Watson, of New York, the appointment of the various standing committees were referred to the committee on nominations.

Several of the standing committees were called upon for reports, but none were received.

Dr. J. B. Biddle, Chairman of the committee on nominations, made the following report:—

The committee on nominations, to which was referred resolutions in reference to the appointment of a committee on Medical Topography and Epidemics, report the resolutions with a recommendation that they be adopted.

They recommend the following gentlemen to compose the committee of one from each State and Territory, to be appointed in accordance with the resolutions, viz:—

Maine, J. C. Weston, of Bangor; New Hampshire, Edmund R. Peaslee, Dartmouth College; Vermont, Jos. Perkins, of Castleton; Rhode Island, Joseph Mauran, Providence; Connecticut, Charles Hooker, New Haven; Massachusetts, George C. Shattuck, Boston; New York, Joseph M. Smith; New Jersey, Lindon A. Smith, Newark; Pennsylvania, J. M. Germill, Huntingdon county; Delaware, James W. Thompson, Wilmington; Maryland, Peregrine Wroth, Chestertown; Georgia, John F. Posey, Sevannah; Virginia, P. F. Peebles, Petersburg; District of Columbia, Thomas Miller, Washington; South Carolina, D. J. Cain, Charleston; North Carolina, O. F. Manson; Kentucky, Wm. L. Sutton, Georgetown; Tennessee, E. B. Haskins, Clarksville; Louisiana, E. D. Fenner, New Orleans; Minesota, J. H. Murphy, St. Anthony's Falls; Ohio, G. Mendenhall, Cincinnati; Mississippi, T. J. Grafton, Rodney; Missouri, J. B. Alleyne; Michigan, J. H. Beech, Cold Water; Alabama, S. W. Chanton, Warsaw; Illinois, John Evans, Chicago; Indiana, Vierling Kersey, Milton, Wayne county; Wisconsin, Alfred L. Castleton, Delafield; Iowa, E. A. Arnold, Daven-

port; U. S. Navy, Thomas Dillard, Philadelphia; U. S. Army, Clement A. Finley.

The committee report that, in their opinion, it is inexpedient to make any change in the constitution in regard to the time and place of meeting of the Association. The following special committees were appointed to report upon the subjects named:—

Dr. Lewis H. Steiner, of Washington, District of Columbia, on Strychnia—its chemical and toxicological properties.

Dr. Asbury Evans, of Covington, Kentucky, on Trachcotomy in Epilepsy.

Dr. I. Taylor Bradford, of Augusta, Kentucky, on the Treatment of Cholera.

Dr. Charles Q. Chandler, of Rocheport, Missouri, on Malignant Periodic Fevers.

Dr. H. A. Johnson, of Chicago, Illinois, on the Excretions as an Index to the Organic Changes in the System.

Dr. Henry J. Bigelow, of Boston, Massachusetts, on Microscopical Investigation of Malignant Tumours.

Dr. E. H. Davis, of New York, on the statistics of Calculous Diseases, and the operations therefor.

Dr. I. S. Carpenter, on the Treatment and Curability of Reducible Hernia.

Dr. N. J. Fuller, of Maine, on the Best Treatment of Cholera Infantum.

Dr. Wm. B. Page, of Philadelphia, on Injuries of the Joints.

Dr. Wilson Jewell, of Philadelphia, on the Statistics of Mortality in the United States.

Dr. J. Knight, of New Haven, Connecticut, on Endemic Tetanus.

Dr. P. H. Cabell, of Alabama, on the Native Substitutes for Cinchona, indigenous to the Southern States.

Dr. James M. Newman, of Buffalo, New York, on the Sanitary Police of cities.

Dr. I. W. Noble, of Le Roy, Illinois, on Puerperal Fever and its Communicability.

Dr. J. M. Freer, of Chicago, Illinois, on the Progress of General and Descriptive Anatomy.

Dr. J. W. Corson, of New York, on the causes of the Impulse of the Heart, and the agencies which influence it in Health and Disease.

Dr. D. Meredith Reese, of New York, on the Causes of Infant Mortality in large cities, the source of its increase, and the means for its diminution.

Dr. Mark Stephenson, of New York, on the Treatment best adopted to each variety of Cataract, with the method of operation, place of election, time, age, &c.

Dr. Thomas Miller, of Washington, District of Columbia, on Toxicology.

Dr. E. S. Peaslee, of Hanover, New Hampshire, on inflamation, its Pathology, and its relation to reparative process.

Dr. D. D. Thomson of Louisville, Kentucky, on the Remedial effects of Chloroform.

Dr. Wm. Clendennin, of Cincinnati, Ohio, on Epidemic Erysipelas.

Dr. C. D. Comegys, of Cincinnati, Ohio, on the state of the urine in Tubercular Disease.

Dr. J. B. Coleman, of New Jersey, on the effect of Mercury on the Living Animal Tissues.

Dr. T. G. Richardson, of Louisville, Kentucky, on the Diversity of the Venereal Poison.

Dr. J. B. Flint, of Louisville, Kentucky, on the best mode of rendering the Medical patronage of the National Government tributary to the honor and improvement of the profession.

Dr. J. C. Hutchinson, of Brooklyn, New York, on the Anatomy and Histology of the Cervix uteri.

Dr. M. M. Latta, of Goshen, Indiana, on whether there are any means by which the Growth of the Fœtus in utero may be controlled without injury to the Mother.

Committee to procure Memorials of the Eminent and Worthy Dead—Dr. P. A. Jewett, of Connecticut; Dr. T. F. Betton, of Pennsylvania; Dr. C. J. Blackburn, of Kentucky; Dr. Wm. M. Boling, of Alabama; Zina Pitcher, of Michigan.

Committee on Plans of Organization of State and County Societies—Dr. A. B. Palmer, of Michigan; Dr. N. B. Ives, of Connecticut; Dr. E. B. Haskins, of Tennessee; Dr. Charles Woodward, of Ohio; Dr. Josiah Crosby, of New Hampshire.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Committee on Arrangements—Dr. Zina Pitcher, of Detroit; Dr. Moses Gunn, do; Dr. G. B. Russell, do; Dr. A. S. Leland, Dr. Moses Stewart, Dr. Peter Klein, Dr. J. A. Brown.

Committee on Prize Essays.—Dr. A. B. Palmer, of Michigan; Dr. Samuel Denton, Dr. A. Terry, Dr. Adam Sager, Dr. S. H. Douglass, Dr. Corodon La Ford, Dr. E. Andrews.

Committee on Medical Literature.—Dr. P. C. Gaillard, of South Carolina; Dr. N. P. Monroe, of Maine; Dr. Jame

Couper, of Delaware; Dr. R. Hills, of Ohio; Dr. A. Coffin, South Carolina.

Committee on Medical Education.—Dr. Wm. H. Anderson, of Alabama; Dr. J. B. Flint, of Kentucky; Dr. P. H. Cabell, of Alabama; Dr. George Hayward, of Massachusetts; Dr. E. B. Smith, of Missouri.

On motion, the report of the committee was adopted.

The special order of the day, the resolutions in reference to the appointment of committees on Medical Topography, offered by Dr. Thompson, of Delaware, was taken up; and after some remarks by Dr. Thompson, advocating their adoption, Dr. Askew, of Delaware, offered the following additional resolution, which was accepted by Dr. Thompson:—

Resolved, That all reports on the Medical Topography and prevailing diseases of States, shall, to entitle them to be received by this Association and published in the proceedings, be first approved by the Medical Societies of the State or Territory where such Society exists; and to which State or Territory such report refers.

The preamble and resolutions presented yesterday by Dr. Thompson, were then adopted.

A number of special committees not being ready to report were passed over.

The committee on Dysentery, Dr. Henry Taylor, of Mt. Clemens, Michigan, chairman, presented, through Dr. Beech, an abstract of the report which was read, and, on motion, the report was referred to to the committee on publication.

The committee on Hydrophobia and the connection of the season of the year with its prevalence, Dr. T. W. Blatchford, of New York, chairman, presented a partial report which was read, and, on motion of Dr. Smith, of New York, the committee was continued.

The Association took a recess of one hour, and re-assembled at 1 o'clock P. M.

Dr. R. D. Mussey, of Ohio, the committee to examine into, and report upon the effects of Alcoholic Liquors upon the system in health and disease, read his report, which was, on motion, referred to the committee on publication.

Friday, May 4, 1855.

Dr. J. L. Atlee, of Pennsylvania, presented and read a report, on behalf of the committee appointed at the last annual meeting of the Association, and to which was referred, the essays of Dr. Phelps, of New York, on "Religion as an Element in Medicine, or the duties and obligations of the pro-

fession," and also the communication of Dr. R. S. Bailey, of South Carolina, on the same subject, with instructions to consider and report on the expediency of publishing the same. The report was accompanied with the following resolution:—

Resolved, That it is inexpedient to publish, in our *Transactions*, the essay of Dr. Phelps.

The Resolution was adopted.

Dr. Charles Hooker, of Connecticut, offered the following amendment to the constitution, which, under the rules, lies over until the next annual meeting of the Association.

"Any permanent member who shall not pay for the published *Transactions*, for three successive years, shall be considered as withdrawn."

Dr. N. S. Davis, of Chicago, Illinois, submitted the following preamble and resolutions:—

Whereas, The present mode of conducting the annual meetings of the Association affords but little opportunity for the discussion of strictly scientific questions and papers, and

Whereas, This has been regarded as a serious defect in the operation of our organization, imparing its scientific character, therefore,

Resolved, That the daily sessions of the Association during each annual meeting, be divided into two parts—the first to terminate at an hour not later than 12 o'clock P. M., each day, and to be devoted as heretofore, to the general business of the Association. The second, consisting of all the time which is deemed advisable to remain in session each day, after 12½ o'clock, P. M., to take the character of a scientific session, and to be devoted exclusively to the discussion of questions relating to the science and art of medicine.

Resolved, That the Association, in its capacity of a scientific session, having no power to act on any subject except of a scientific character, may continue in session, whenever thought advisable, a longer period than in its most general capacity.

Resolved, That the foregoing preamble and resolutions be referred to the committee of Arrangements, with instructions to report on the same at the commencement of the next annual session.

Dr. C. G. Comegys, of Ohio, offered the following preamble and resolutions, which were on motion, referred to the committee on nominations.

Whereas, The American Medical Association, though devoting itself ardently to the interest of medical science, is unable to accomplish all its aims for the promotion of the use-

fulness of the profession in society without the aid of legislation, therefore

Resolved, That the members of the medical profession throughout the Union be urgently requested to take immediate and concerted action for petitioning their several legislative bodies to establish officers for the collection of Vital Statistics.

Resolved, That for the purpose of securing an ample number of petitioners for this object, this Association suggests that every member of the profession shall endeavor to secure the names of his personal friends.

Resolved, That a copy of the above resolutions be transmitted to the several State Societies.

Dr. A. J. Semmes, of Washington, D. C., offered the following, which was adopted;

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to report to the Association at its next annual meeting, what measures should be adopted to remedy the evils existing in the present methods of holding Coroners' inquests, by incompetent persons, by which the lives and liberties of the innocent may be jeopardized, and the ends of justice frustrated.

The President appointed Dr. A. J. Semmes, of Washington; Grafton Tyler, D. C.; and Dr. D. F. Condie, of Pennsylvania, that Committee.

Dr. Biddle, Chairman of the Committee on Nominations, to whom was referred the resolution of Dr. Jewett, "that a Committee of one from each State be appointed by this Association to report upon a Uniform System of Registration of Marriages, Births and Deaths," made a report, recommending the adoption of the resolution, and presenting the following list of names to constitute said committee:—

Dr. M. W. Wilson, of Hartford, Conn., Chairman; G. S. Palmer, of Gardiner, Me.; Silas Cumming, Fitz William, N. H.; G. T. Elliott, Woodstock, Vt.; Edward Jarvis, Dorchester Mass.; Joseph Mauran, Providence, R. I.; John H. Griscom, N. Y.; Henry Carpenter, Lancaster, Pa.; O. H. Taylor, Camden, N. J.; Lewis P. Bush, Wilmington, Del.; A. Snowden Piggott, Baltimore, Md.; David H. Tucker, Richmond, Va.; N. I. Pittman, Tarboro, N. C.; Harvey Lindsley, Washington, D. C.; John L. Dawson, Charleston, S. C.; R. D. Arnold, Savannah, Ga.; A. Lopez, Mobile, Ala.; James Jones, New Orleans, La.; R. C. Foster, Nashville, Tenn.; C. J. Blackburn, Covington, Ky.; John Dawson, Columbus, Ohio; Edmund Murphy, New Harmony, Ind.; N. D. Stebbins, Detroit, Michigan; I. V. Z. Blaney, Chicago, Ill.; Geo.

D. Wilbur, Mineral Point, Wis.; Wm. McPheeters, St. Louis, Mo.; J. D. Elbert, Keosaqua, Iowa; John H. Murphey, Falls of St. Anthony, Minnesota.

Mississippi and Arkansas were left blank.

Dr. J. L. Atlee, of Pennsylvania, offered the following resolutions, which were adopted:—

Resolved, That to secure efficient teaching in medical schools, where the prime object is to enforce practical precepts, a large degree of union and harmony must exist among the teachers, and confidence be reposed in them by their pupils.

Resolved, That any such unnatural union as the mingling of an exclusive system, such as homœpathy, with scientific medicine in a school, setting aside all questions of its untruthfulness, cannot fail by the destruction of union and confidence and the production of confusion and disorder, unsettling and distracting the mind of the learners, to so far impair the usefulness of teaching as to render every school adopting such a policy unworthy the support of the profession.

Dr. Clendennin, of Cincinnati, Ohio, offered the following resolutions, which, after amendments being made upon motion of Dr. Miltenberger, of Maryland, and Dr. J. L. Atlee, of Pennsylvania, were adopted:

Resolved, That no State or local society shall be hereafter entitled to a representation in this Association, which has not adopted the code of ethics.

Resolved, That no State or local society which has violated or discarded any article or clause in the code of ethics, shall longer be entitled to a representation in this body.

Whereas, It has been brought to the notice of the American Medical Association, that the State Medical Society of Ohio violated, at their last annual meeting, one of the articles of its code of ethics by adopting a resolution, "That it is not derogatory to medical dignity or inconsistent with medical honor for medical gentlemen to take out a patent right for surgical or medical instruments," Therefore,

Resolved, That the Secretary of this Association be directed to inform the officers of the Medical Society of Ohio, that unless such action be rescrinded, they cannot hereafter be represented in this Association.

Dr. A. Stillè, of Pennsylvania, offered the following resolutions, which were adopted:—

Resolved, That a Special Committee of five be appointed to report at the next meeting of the Association upon the following question:—

Might not the present system of repeating the same lectures

to the same classes during two successive terms be usefully modified by extending the lectures of each chair over two sessions, so as to embrace systematic and complete discussion of each of the following subjects ? :—

1. Special, Regional, and General Anatomy, including illustrative references to Morbid Anatomy.

2. Inorganic, Organic, and Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Toxicology.

3. General and Human Physiology, Hygiene, Medical Jurisprudence.

4. Medical Botany, Materia Medica, Therapeutics.

5. General Pathology, Morbid Anatomy (systematic), Practice of Medicine.

6. General Surgical Pathology or Institutes of Surgery, Mechanical, Operative, and Medicinal Surgery.

7. Obstetrics, Diseases of Women, Diseases of Children.

8. Hospital Clinical Medicine and Surgery.

Resolved, That the Committee, at an early day, address the several Medical Colleges in regard to the proposed plan of instruction, requesting from them an official expression of opinion upon its merits and feasibility.

The President appointed the following committee under the preceding resolutions :—

Dr. A. Stillé, of Philadelphia, Chairman ; Professor Samuel Jackson, of Philadelphia; Dr. John Bell, of Philadelphia; Dr. John Watson, of New York; and Dr. J. L. Cabell, of Charlottsville, Virginia.

Dr. Levi D. Scheets, of Ohio, offered the following alterations to the constitution, which, under rule, lie over until the next meeting :—

Whereas, It has been found necessary to devise some means of elevating the standard of education, both professional and general, among medical men, by those who are best acquainted with the sad and lamentable deficiency which prevails in this respect among a large mass of the profession, and particularly in the Western States, And, *Whereas*, efforts to this effect at home have been opposed on the ground that more was exacted by such as took an active part in the matter than is required by the "American Medical Association," And,

Whereas, It is believed that the National Society can exert a beneficial influence over the whole country, Therefore,

Resolved, That the Constitution of the Association be so amended as to require all delegates, before being allowed a seat in said Association, to satisfy the proper authorities that the Societies which they represent, require *graduation* as the

sine qua non to admission therein, and that no person can become a permanent member, a member by invitation, or can be received as a delegate from any other body, unless he be a graduate of some respectable medical school.

Resolved, That the editors of the various medical journals of the United States be requested to publish the foregoing, so that an interest may be awakened upon this subject, and that Societies may be prepared to comply with the above requisitions in case they meet the approval of this Association.

Dr. Corson, of New York, asked and obtained leave to read a brief abstract of a paper "On the influence of Lead upon the Heart's Action, and the Importance of the Study of the Cardiac Impulse in Disease generally founded upon a series of observations."

On motion, it was referred to a special committee of three with instructions, if they approve of it, to transmit it to the committee of Publication for insertion in the *Transactions*.

Drs. Chas. D. Davis, Isaac Wood, and F. Campbell Stewart, of New York, were appointed the committee.

Dr. Thomas, of Baltimore, read a paper on a simple and easy method of applying nitrate of silver to the air-passages, contrived and employed by the author's brother, Dr. John Chew Thomas, about six years since. It consists in applying a stick of caustic lightly to a fine grindstone or emory wheel made to revolve with great velocity. The caustic is thus thrown off in an impalpable powder which may be inhaled by the patient sitting before the stone.

On motion of Dr. Emerson, the paper was referred to a committee of three with instructions, if they deem it worthy of insertion in the *Transactions*, to transmit it to the committee of Publication.

Drs. Emerson, of Philadelphia, Mittenberger, of Maryland, and R. P. Thomas, of Philadelphia, were appointed that committee.

Dr. Atlee, offered the following resolution, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That the subject of the contagiousness or non-contagiousness of cholera be especially recommended to the attention of the State Committee on Epidemics, state Topography, &c.

Several propositions to amend the constitution, which were laid over at the last meeting, were called up and rejected.

Dr. N. B. Ives, of Connecticut, proposed the following amendment to the constitution, to be appended to the end of the second article:

"The Association shall, at all times, have power to punish any of its members by reprimands, suspension, or expulsion, upon a three-fourths vote of the members present at any meeting, at which not less than one hundred are in attendance."

Dr. Dorset, of Virginia, offered the following amendments to the Constitution:

Resolved, That with a view of adding dignity and influence to our body, and conveying a more adequate idea of its national representative character, the title "National Medical Congress" be substituted for that of "American Medical Association," and that we hold our sessions at least once in three years in Washington, D. C.

Adjourned *sine die*.

EDITORIAL.

THE REPORTER.—The present number of this Journal commences its third year; and we may be permitted to say that the expectations of those who were instrumental in bringing it into existence, have not been disappointed. Its success has been quite equal to our anticipations, and the reception it has obtained, by no means induces a state of despondency for the future.

To those cotemporaries who have regularly kept us upon their exchange list, and have invariably met us in a spirit of kindness, we renew our cordial thanks. We have no mercenary motives to gratify in conducting this journal; and hence, we only bespeak the aid and good wishes of our medical brethren so far as to enable us to circulate the medical facts which occur in our vicinity, and encourage a spirit of investigation which shall elevate the standard of medical science among us.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.—This Society met at Hollidaysburg on the 30th of May. Dr. Gremmill, the President, presided and delivered the annual address. The proceedings, we learn, were marked with interest and importance. We shall furnish our readers with an abstract, in our next number.

American Medical Association.—This Association held its Eighth Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, during the first four days of May last. The meeting was large, and its proceedings highly interesting. It embraced a large number of the most distinguished members of our profession, from almost every part of the Union. The medical profession of Philadelphia extended a cordial welcome to their brethren from abroad, and rendered their sojourn in the city very agreeable. The practice of giving a general banquet was dispensed with, and the members were invited to a series of private entertainments for three successive evenings. Various public institutions were visited, and the whole time was spent in a manner admirably calculated to advance the best interests of the medical profession, and reflect credit upon the physicians and other citizens of the city of "*brotherly love*," for their enlarged and liberal hospitality. We copy in this number an abstract of the proceedings.

A Stated Meeting of the Chester County Medical Society will be held at the White Hall Hotel, West Chester, on Tuesday, the 31st of July, at 11 o'clock.

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE.

Work on Mal-Practice.—We are glad to see that Dr. Stephen Smith, Surgeon to Bellevue Hospital, New York, is engaged in preparing a work on "Medical Jurisprudence," with special reference to the illustration of the legal responsibilities of the medical practitioner, in his several capacities as physician, surgeon and accoucheur. The frequency of late with which suits for alleged mal-practice have been instituted in various parts of the country, renders this an exceedingly interesting as well as important subject; and a work setting forth the legal relation of physician and patient, cannot fail to be acceptable to the profession at large. In order that the work may cover the whole ground and be well illustrated by cases, the author would be obliged to practitioners throughout the country, if they will furnish him with a report of all the litigated cases coming within their knowledge.—*St. Louis Med. & Surg. Journal.*

Chloroform in Delirium Tremens.—In a case which had continued for two days, when the patient was first seen, Mr. White found the extremities cold and a pulse of 60. The patient could not articulate in the least, nor even make a vocal sound. Notwithstanding the administration of laudanum and acetate of morphia, infusion of spearmint, etc., there had been no sleep for 48 hours, and vomiting was constant. The feet were warmed by bottles filled with hot water: sinapisms were placed upon the legs and abdomen; the head was shaven, and cold applications continually made to it. Subsequently Mr. W. gave 30 drops of chloroform in a tea spoon full of brandy, every two hours. After the third dose the patient slept for two hours, after four days of sleeplessness. Thirty drops more of chloroform were given, on his awakening, and with the good result of inducing sleep during a period of from six to eight hours, after which the restoration to health was rapid.—*Dublin Hospital Gazette.*

Nitrate of Silver.—In the London Hospital, when this substance is required to be used in solution, the common nitric ether is preferred to water as a solvent. The common strength is eight grains to the ounce, but the solution may be made much stronger if necessary. The ether acts as a solvent of any sebaceous matter which may be on the surface, and evaporates so rapidly as to prevent spreading. A cooling sensation is at the same time produced, and several coatings may be applied in quick succession. It is much used in erysipelas, and other forms of asthenic inflamation of the skin. In addition to the several reasons given for preferring an etherial menstruum, it occurs to us, that an avoidance of the use of impure water, by which the nitrate is decomposed, is a cogent one.—*Memphis Medical Recorder.*

The Unity of the Race, an established fact in Science.—Professor Owen, of London, than whom there is no higher living authority, expresses his mature convictions on this subject as follows: "Thus in reference both to the unity of the human species, and to the fact of man being the last, as he is the highest of all animal forms upon our planet, the interpretation of God's works coincide with what has been revealed to us, as to our origin and zoological relations in the world."—And again, he says: "*Man is the sole specie of his genus, the sole representative of his order.*" This will far more than outweigh the empty declarations of a thousand such upstarts in science as Messrs. Knott and Gliddon.—*Ib.*

Leucorrhœa.—We are disposed to concur with Dr. Russell as to the value of iodine, as a local remedy in most, if not all, the forms of this disease. He uses it by vaginal injection once or twice a day, on every second or third day, as occasion may require, and in strength varying from one to four grains of iodine, with double the quantity of iodide of potash, to an ounce of water. We have occasionally been able to use a stronger solution, always directing the strength to be increased until a sensation of decided stimulation was produced. We have a patient at this time using it in the strength of fifteen grains of iodine to thirty of iodide of potash, in one ounce of water, without inconvenience; and in this case, as in many others in which we have used it, the patient injects the solution with the hips raised, to prevent an immediate discharge: and it is further secured by the introduction of a sponge pessary before a change of posture. The proper constitutional treatment is, of course, an important matter in all cases; and no part of this treatment is in general more important, than the habitual and daily use of aloetic aperients.

Dublin Hospital Gazette.

Effects of Fright on the unborn Fœtus.—Baron Percy, an eminent French military surgeon states, that after the siege of Landau, in 1793, in which, in addition to a violent cannonading, which kept the women for some time in a constant state of alarm, the arsenal blew up with a terrific explosion. Out of 92 children born in the district within a few months thereafter, 16 died at the instant of birth; 33 languished from eight to ten months and then died; 8 became idiotic and died before the age of five years, and 2 came into the world with numerous fractures of the bones of the extremities.—*Memphis Meical Recorder.*

Decoction of Mullein Leaves as an Anti-Periodic.—Dr. McCary, of S. Carolina, states in the Southern Med. & Surg. Journal, that he has found the decoction of mullein leaves equal to the sulphate of quinine as an anti-periodic. He takes ℥ij of the leaves to a quart of boiling water, and boils until it is reduced to one pint. Of this four desert spoonfuls are given every two hours, commencing early in the morning, and repeated whenever the paroxysm is expected.—*Ib.*

University of Pennsylvania.—Dr. H. H. Smith, of Philadelphia, has been appointed Professor of Surgery in this institution, in place of Dr. Wm. Gibson, resigned.

MEDICAL SCIENCE.

Non-identity of Typhous and Typhoid Fever.—Although typhous and typhoid fevers resemble each other very much in their external appearances, Professor Forget, of Strasburg, believes that they are clinically and essentially different in their nature. They are anatomically different; they are not equally frequent in their occurrence; and typhoid fever may arise from many causes, quite irrespective of infection. In folicular enteritis the typhoid condition is not constantly present, and it is usually secondary; while in typhous, the prostration and stupor, attending its invasion, indicate a powerful intoxicating principle, acting primarily as a poison, which is not usual at the commencement of the typhoid state. Gastro-intestinal symptoms are more constant and primitive in typhoid than in typhous fever; for in it they are occasionally found existing alone; and we very rarely see cases of follicular enteritis which do not present the rough (*saburral*), punctulated and rosy tongue; also *gargouillement* and pain in the right iliac region, and either diarrhœa or constipation. Though other symptoms may coexist with them, they are never wholly obscured. In typhous again, especially at its outset, the tongue is frequently moist, smooth and white; metorism and abdominal pain are absent, and there is no derangements of the process of defecation. If we except the rosy, lenticular spots, peculiar to typhoid fever, and which constitute, according to M. Forget, its most constant differential sign, there are no symptoms in general connected with either malady which are not purely accessary and inconstant. Typhoid fever is usually slow, and gradual in its course, and in simple uncomplicated cases its evolution is in exact ratio to the development of the intestinal lesion. In typhous, on the other hand, the disease is very violent at first, and afterwards becomes suddenly or alternately better or worse, and often in those cases which appear the most unfavorable, it advances rapidly and spontaneously to a favorable termination. Ataxia characterizes it more than it does typhoid fever.

As regards the treatment of the two diseases, Professor Forget says that while, in typhoid fever, this must always be adapted to the peculiarities of each particular case, special attention must be paid to the intestinal ulcerations which are present during its course, and that all those medicines should be avoided which are calculated to aggravate these lesions of the alimentary canal. There is no need for this caution in cases of pure typhous.—*Monthly Jour. Med. Sci., Feb.* 1855.

BIOGRAPHICAL DEPARTMENT.

Biographical notice of Dr. Jonathan Morris, of Delaware County, Pa., reported to the *Delaware County Medical Society*, by C. J. Morton, M. D.

David Morris, who was the original progenitor of his family in Pennsylvania, emigrated from Wales about the year 1683. In 1685, he married Mary Philpin. In 1695, he purchased from Daniel Humphrey a tract of 334 acres of land in Marple township, Delaware county, for which was paid £18; on that was his future residence. Among the children of this marriage was a son, Jonathan, who intermarried with Catharine Moore. These last were the parents of Dr. Jonathan Morris, the subject of this notice. Among the Physicians who have resided in Delaware county, he may be regarded the senior. He was born in Marple, on the 17th of May, 1729. This was under the proprietary, and during the administration of Gov. Gordon, three years prior to the arrival of Thomas Penn.

Of the history of his early youth we know very little, except that, it would appear from his own relation, he was an active, animated boy; that he was fond of participating in the hunting excursions of the Indians, who were still denizens of the forest round-about his father's residence; and in the subsequent part of his life, he was fond of relating anecdotes and incidents of his intercourse with them. He always spoke favorably of their disposition to reciprocate good treatment. He remained at home until his final departure to enter on the study of Medicine. The resources for primary education, which are now so numerous, and well organized in the country, were at that time few and imperfect. There is no reason to believe, therefore, his preliminary tuition extended beyond a common English education, which was improved and enlarged by subsequent opportunities of learning. He was placed in Philadelphia under the direction of Dr. Thomas Bard, about the year 1746, and completed his studies in the City of New York, whither his preceptor had in the meantime removed.

Dr. Morris was in person under the ordinary stature, and apparently of a delicate frame, yet he enjoyed to an extreme age almost uninterrupted health. He possessed an unusual portion of physical and mental activity, and few men have evinced more decision of character and self-reliance in all the

affairs of life. These endowments sustained him through a long career of active industry and useful labor. He inherited a birth-right among Friends,of which society he ever continued to be an esteemed member. He settled first at Newtown Square, about 1751, and continued there until 1756, when he removed to Marlborough, Chester county; soon after this change he married Alice, the daughter of Cadwallader Evans, of Middletown township, an alliance which resulted in their mutual happiness for more than sixty years. Remaining at the latter place only a short time, he fixed his permanent abode in Marple, (he bought and settled on the property lately owned by David Latch, dec'd.) where he continued during life, with the exception of a few years at its close, which were passed with his children.

To judge by a portrait of Dr. Morris, long preserved in the family but now lost, it would appear to have been the fashion at that day, now happily laid aside, for professional gentlemen to wear wigs, and large ruffles to the wristbands and bosoms of their shirts, as a distinctive badge of the profession, on the same principle, perhaps, that "a saint in crape is twice a saint in lawn." That portrait was painted by Benjamin West, in his youthful days, somewhere between 1754 and '60, for at the latter date, Mr. West took his final departure for Europe. It was a token of respect and gratitude to the original, who was the personal friend and advocate of that distinguished artist, when his sectarian friends essayed to check his youthful aspirations. Not only did Dr. Morris, with his friend Mr. Wayne, "advance the lad a present of a few dollars to buy materials to paint with," but instructed him also at the beginning in the art of mixing oil colors. It is related by Galt, in his life of Mr. West, that "these were the first public patrons of the artist, and the insertion of their names was done at the particular desire of Mr. West." The Mr. Wayne above mentioned was the father of Gen. Anthony Wayne of the revolutionary army, and lived in Easttown, Chester county. It is scarcely expected of his successors in the profession, at this enlightened period, with its multiplied discoveries and improvements to aid them, at command, fully to appreciate the difficulties that beset the early path of Dr. Morris, whose business spread over nearly all of Delaware and a portion of, Chester counties. Contrasted with their occupation in our cultivated and thriving county—his distant and solitary tours were through unbroken forests, and among a sparse population whose meagre resources allowed a mere pittance for his toil. These remarks apply to his early career.

Subsequently, he was enabled by persevering industry and economy, to accumulate a comfortable independence. Accidental and uncertain were then the means of promoting intercourse or procuring intelligence; now artificial roads and other appliances are daily converging to every door the discoveries and incidents of the world.

Much difficulty was doubtless experienced at that primitive time in acquiring a competent medical education, without a resort to foreign schools; but the subject of our notice possessed great advantages of position in Philadelphia and New York, under the tuition of an able preceptor, the chief of whose business came under the notice of his observant pupil. In addition to which Dr. Bard was in charge of the garrison hospital at New York, and in that institution his pupil was not unprofitably employed. He also practiced dissection there for anatomical instruction. It was customary then for physicians even in the cities, to prepare in their own offices the medicines dispensed to the sick. In the shop of his preceptor the student must have acquired a competent knowledge of the Materia Medica and Pharmacy, as then understood. Dr. Morris cherished for these branches of the science a great partiality, and devoted much time to the collection of remedies. His shop was replete with medicinal articles; some of which were obtained from the druggist, others were prepared in his own laboratory. In that retreat, a fondness for the investigation of medical subjects found its gratification and reward. He was in the habit of experimenting on various articles collected from the vegetable kingdom. In making collections, botanical resemblances were supposed to indicate similarity of medical properties.

As Dr. Morris' course commenced at the dawn of medical knowledge in this country, when scarcely an indigenous production on the subject of medicine had appeared, it might be presumed his knowledge was scanty and imperfect; that was not the fact. Let it be remembered that the circulation of the blood, that just basis of all true physiology and surgery, had been discovered by Harvey, and had become a fixed anatomical fact long before his day; and that William and John Hunter were his seniors in age, and commenced their lectures so early as 1746; it is fair to conclude he had received the benefit of their teaching, both in anatomy and surgery. His position in New York and Philadelphia, and subsequent settlement in proximity to the latter, enabled him to receive a portion of the light then shed abroad in the medical world.

Conclusion in next number.

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VOL. III.—NO. 2. OCTOBER, 1855.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

Proceedings of the Chester County Medical Society.

A Stated Meeting of the Chester County Medical Society was held at West Chester, July 31st, 1855. President—Dr. OGIER, in the Chair.

Members Present—Drs. Thomas, W. Worthington, Brinton, Parish, Edge, Gunkle, Hartman, Latta, W. H. Worthington and Price.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. Worthington, on behalf of the Delegates to the American Medical Association, reported that they nearly all attended, and that the meeting was unusually large and interesting.

Dr. Ogier, on behalf of the Delegates to the State Society, reported that he was the only one that attended.

The Editorial Committee submitted a report, exhibiting the finances of the "Reporter," and also a proposition from Mr. H. S. Evans, for the continuation of the publication of the Reporter,—by which the Chester County Society takes fifty copies at the subscription price, and the Delaware County Society twenty-five copies; the members of each society to be released from their present subscriptions, and hereafter to be supplied by their respective societies. The receipts for all other subscriptions and for advertising, to belong to Mr. Evans.

The report was adopted and directed to be filed.

Dr. E. B. Heckel was balloted for and duly elected a member of the Society,—paid his initiation fee and signed the Constitution.

An interesting case of difficult labor—reported by Dr. C. Swayne, was read.

Dr. Brinton mentioned a case now under his care at the Chester County Prison, illustrating the fact, that the effects of malaria may lie dormant in the system for a considerable time. An inmate, since the 8th of March last, was attacked a few days ago with intermittent fever. He had resided at Columbia, Pa., for a year previous to his arrest, but never before had chills.

The report of the Committee on Fee-bill, was read, and again referred to the next stated meeting.

A resignation of membership was received from Dr. E. F. Rivinus.

The amendments to the Constitution, proposed at last Stated Meeting, were adopted.

Dr. Edge read an interesting and able essay upon Pneumonia of children, for which, on motion of Dr. Hartman, the thanks of the society were tendered.

The Treasurer presented the 7th vol. of the *Transactions* of the American Medical Association.

Dr. Darlington presented "An Address by Dr. Smith, of New York, on the occasion of the dedication of the new south building of the New York Hospital," for which the thanks of the society were tendered.

Dr. Gunkle was appointed to prepare an essay to be read at the next Stated Meeting of the Society.

The Committee on Medical Topography, appointed in June, 1852, not being ready to report, were continued, with power to add such names to the committee as the chairman may think proper.

Drs. Parish, W. Worthington, Swayne, Murphy, Gunkle, Coffman and Townsend, were appointed the Sanitary Committee, for the ensuing year.

An interesting discussion, relative to the use of the forceps in cases of tedious labor, took place, in which nearly all the members present, participated.

JACOB PRICE, *Rec. Sect'ry.*

Pneumonia of Children.—An Essay read before the *Chester County Medical Society*, at the Stated Meeting, July 31st, 1855, by Dr. J. P. Edge.

The frequency of acute inflammatory diseases of the respiratory apparatus of children, and their severity and fatality during our colder months, give to the consideration of their history and management, no small share of importance.

Persons in early life, from a greater delicacy and impressibility of constitution,—among the poorer classes, from faulty methods of clothing and feeding, and imprudent exposure to atmospheric changes, &c.—or among the wealthy, an excessive and injudicious watchfulness on the part of parents, who, while endeavoring to guard their children against the inroads of disease, *over-clothe* them and relax their system, and render them much more susceptible to attacks of Pneumonia Pleurisy, &c., when exposed. These, and other causes, combine to make up a large share of the physicians winter duties. It may not be unfitting, therefore, to refer to some of the varying forms of these affections. The limits of a paper like the present, however, will prevent a reference to the general subject. Allow me therefore, to direct your attention to one or two considerations, viz:—the difficulties encountered in making out the diagnosis in children, from obscurities, complications, &c., and the treatment found on trial, best adapted to them. It is not intended to set up a claim to any thing new on the subject. My only wish or attempt shall be to add my feeble testimony to that already before us.

In young children, it is often with the greatest difficulty that we are enabled to distinguish between inflammation of the mucous surface and of the substance of the lungs. (Indeed, the two conditions more frequently co-exist in childhood than in adults.) The opportunity for physical diagnosis is often very imperfect, from an unwillingness of the child to allow the needful approach;—we may not be able to apply the ear to the chest of a feverish, fretful and timid child, without causing screams and contortions, that destroy all the benefits of this means of diagnosis. Or, if allowed a quiet opportunity, we are embarrased by the naturally puerile sounds of respiration, or on percussion, by the greater resonance than in adults, permitting a clear sound to come up to the ear, even when a considerable portion of the lung beneath may be engorged or hepatized, and often, therefore, leaving us little in this department of the examination, except the diminished expansi-

bility of the lungs, and the alterations in the louder bronchial sounds, the smaller bronchia affected, being filled and impervious.

The absence of any considerable cough or expectoration, in some severe attacks of inflammation of the lungs, is a condition well calculated to mislead the attendant, as mere accelerated and oppressed breathing is often seen with other diseases.

The unwillingness or inability of the little sufferer to expectorate, or spit out the expectorated matters, denies us an important sign that we have in adults. I do not now remember having seen the "rust colored sputa," in any case of Pneumonia where the patient was under five or six years old.

But it is when the nervous system, and especially the brain, receives the first and severest impression from the disturbing cause, producing all or many of the direct signs of encephalic mischief, or of perverted action of the spinal system of nerves, that our judgment and skill are put to the closest test; so completely may the pneumonic symptoms be masked by these, that they are only detected on the closest examination, or by sheer accident. If needful, I might cite instances where practitioners, of acknowledged judgment, after having treated their patients on principle for disease of the brain, discovered, on post-mortem examination, not an inflamed brain or membranes, but that the true seat of disease had been in the lungs, stomach, liver, &c., no suspicion having been entertained of the fact previous to death. I confess to having been puzzled in several instances for a considerable time, to determine the nature of a child's illness, and surprised, finally, to discover what was least suspected—Lobular Pneumonia.

These difficulties should have the effect, not only to instill great caution in forming our judgments in reference to our own patients, but to observe a charitable disposition towards what we may suppose are the errors of our neighbors.

But we will pass to the consideration of the management of pneumonia of children, as fulfilling more properly the intention of this paper.

Admitting, then, that we have arrived at a correct understanding of the disease,—with the helpless sufferer committed to us for weal or woe; with all the responsibilities of the relation before us, we may ask ourselves—What is the most hopeful method to rescue the sufferer from its peril? What are the indications to be met? And, what the rational explanation of our plan of treatment? We all know something

of the weight of these questions; that they must be met fully and without hesitation, as on the promptitude and correctness of our course may hang the slender thread of life.

The method of treating pneumonia, as of other acute diseases, may be divided into the heroic or depletive, and the temperate and expectant. My own trials of the former, founded on the teachings from the books, did not afford that satisfaction which would have insured confidence in its virtue. A later use of a more moderate system, has resulted so much more satisfactorily, that I can but add my voice in its favor. I do not deny, however, that by free depletion, and the subsequent use of large doses of emetic tartar to maintain sedation, I have seen the gravest forms of pneumonia yield promptly and fully, when practised on adults;—and there may be instances where the patient would die under any other management; but I hold these to be exceptional, and affording no warrant for incurring its risks in every case, especially with children, as I have seen them reduced to the very verge of life, by a too free use of tartar emetic; a condition from which they were rescued only by the greatest exertion. Again, I have witnessed, as an apparent result of this prostration and consequent relaxation of the capillaries, that when reaction came on, and was allowed to run into excess, there was an increase of the pulmonary engorgment; which, again, put the patients life in peril.

Let us for a moment refer to what would be the physiological effect of a powerful emetic, or prolonged nausea. We have, first, a general blanching and retraction of the surface, an expression and feeling of deathly languor or revulsion, often a purple condition of the lips and nails, labored motion of the heart, a sensation of sinking, caused mainly by retarded circulation through the brain, while the great volume of the blood is dammed back in the venous system, above all, in the delicate and elastic vessels of the viscera, they, at the same time, being under the relaxing effect of the remedy. These again can only be relieved of their accumulated load by its passing forward to the pulmonary system. Now, when that system is already in a state of engorgment and inflammation, and its capillary vessels in non-working order, is it hard to realize an idea of the mischief that may result from a full re-action of the circulation? Could the patient be under the attendant's eye at any hour, this heroic method, when well timed, may be well enough: but as we cannot often devote much time to any one patient, it becomes a duty to adopt some method at once, less hazardous to the patients safety and the attendant's reputation.

To large bleedings the same objections apply. We know how apt bleedings, with children, are liable to be followed by excessive re-action. I certainly have known the pulse of a child, bled to the verge of syncope, reach to a point beyond that which the bleeding was intended to correct, and from which subsequent treatment failed to reduce it. Besides this, the feeling of disgust and fear which it produces in the child, is a serious objection. A further, and not less important one, is the fact urged by writers of much experience, and admitted, though reluctantly, by those of an antiphlogistic turn, that the convalescence is liable to be more tedious after free bleedings, and oftener attended with accidents and complications.

Of the effect of blisters, in the highly inflammatory stage, I cannot speak in much praise; as the disturbance and excitement they are apt to produce, counteracts any good effect from them. It may be said of them, with much truth, that, where they fail to do good, they are sure to do positive harm. Later on, in the course of disease, they are among the most valuable of our remedies. To strong poultices of mustard flour, there is not the same objection; as, while they serve all the good purposes of a blister, they seem to have a tranquilizing effect on the nervous system, often producing quiet, refreshing sleep; a result much to be desired.

I am convinced that the agents to which we have referred, have been used to a needless extent in general practice. It should always be borne in mind that we are the ally of nature, and that to the efforts of the system invaded, we must look for the chief means of cure; and that our aid is best given in a way least likely to embarrass it. In this fact may we find the key to the Homœphath's success, as while nature's efforts are (as they often will, unaided, under the restrictions of regimen, &c.,) doing the work of cure; the doubting looker-on is deluded into the fancy that the diluted nothingness is doing it. Whereas, the same witness, seeing the effect of an active anti-inflammatory treatment, with all its array of sickness, discomfort and blood, has, if the result be unfavorable, both for the method and the man, a full measure of censure. Now, my own experience has convinced me that, all the *material* aid required, may be given with almost as little display of repulsion, as under the infinitesimal system: with this difference, which should commend it to all sensible people,—that while it is susceptible of rational explanation, and is effective; the other tampers with life, and is enveloped in the confused vapors of a false and fanciful abstraction.

To a child under two years old, I give a combination of

calomel, emetic tartar and nitrate of potassa; of calomel 1.20 of a gr.; tartar emetic 1.40, and 1½ grs. salt petre, every hour, two hours, or longer, according to the effect and the severity of attacks; increasing the quantity slightly, for increase of age, tolerance, &c. The first dose or two, of even these minute quantities, will often cause a free vomiting without much straining or nausea; ridding the bronchia of a quantity of tenacious mecus, and affording considerable relief to the patient. A continuance of the powders will seldom produce any sensible effect, only in a gradual control of the force and frequency of the hearts motion, relaxation of the pores, freer expectoration, softer and less urgent cough, disposition to light, easy sleep; sometimes a whitish appearance around the alæ of the nose, but little of the deathly languor and prostration produced by larger doses. These effects, of course, are not always speedily produced, but where circumstances are favorable, they result in an early and complete convalescense.

If the powders cause too much action on the bowels, we have only to combine a minute quantity of dover powder or opium, with them. In lighter attacks, or where there is much nervous complication, the calomel and nit. potash are omitted, and the tart. emetic given with spts. nit. dulc. and syrup squills. Gum water is allowed freely, and mustard foot-baths and sinapisms used frequently. In no plan of treating disease have I derived more satisfaction and pleasure, than in that above suggested. Its advantages are plain. It enables you to leave the bed-side with confidence, and without the fear of having to correct any accidents that may result from more heroic treatment; and, I think, with the assurance that the recovery will be as certain and quick as under any other system.

There is a condition met with more rarely in pneumonic attacks among children, that, so far as my reading has extended, has had less consideration by writers, than its gravity and interest entitle it to. I refer to those cases that have passed into, or from the first, borne a typhoid type. A child, fairly in this state, is truly one of the most hopeless and pitiable sights the diseased body can present; and to a non-experienced person, must appear beyond the resources of medicine. Yet a large proportion of them, I doubt not, can be saved by timely and judicious management.

A short sketch of the first case of the kind I have preserved any note of, may serve to illustrate the class to which your attention is now called.

January 15, 1850.—Was called some miles from home to see a family of extreme poverty; the father representing that his children, four in number, were all sick with *bad* colds, and that one of them, he thought, would soon die. They had been under the charge of another physician, who, for some reason, had discontinued his visits. They all showed pneumonic symptoms in varying degrees of severity. One aet 4 yrs. was lying in a heavy delirious slumber, the pulse feeble and so frequent that its number, per minute, was not noted; breathing heavy, slow and effected by aid of voluntary muscles, and showing an entire loss of balance between the respiration and circulation. There was a loose mucous rale in the throat, and bronchia which masked any vesicular sounds if there were any, though there was some difference in favor of the *left* lung on percussion. The eyelids, nostrils and lips, were covered with sordes, and when protruded the tongue was seen, dry brown and fissued, and the teeth and gums much crusted. Thirst insatiable; when awake was at times delirious, and had a hard, harrassing, but ineffectual cough; eyes without expression. She made no voluntary effort to move on the bed, and had occasional slight subsultus.

The prognosis was, of course, very unfavorable; but after making the parents understand that the case was not utterly hopeless, I gave her sulph. quinia. gr. j, carb. ammon. gr. jss, in syrup every two hours; as a stimulant and derivant, applied a blister, two inches square, on the inner face of each thigh, to be left on three hours, and directed two or three spoonsfull of chicken tea, with a portion of solution of chlorate of potassa every three hours. Thirty dops Hoffman's anodyne was given first of all, to allay nervous condition.

On the following day she showed decided signs of improvement; was not delirious when awake, and inclined to take an increase of nourishment, and make some voluntary efforts to move on the bed. Blisters had drawn well. No change in treatment.

On third day the condition of mouth had much improved, the tongue being moist, red, and clean; breathes much stronger and freer, and expectorates without difficulty. The improvement was progressive from this date, the stimulants gave place to simple expectorants; the animal to a farinaceous diet, and she was soon in as good health as was possible with one lung completely hepatized, the effects of which she shows at the present time. I fully believe that but for the administration of medicine, this girl would not have lived beyond six or eight hours from the time I first saw her; and

the case was one of those that illustrate the virtue of medicine so plainly, that—"he who runs may read." The same treatment has since been used in a number of similar cases with the best results, only one case of typhoid pneumonia having been lost, and in that both lungs were hepatized:—and yet even in these desperate cases we cannot claim that our medicine fulfills the cure. Far from it. The vital spark, as in the instance just cited, almost quenched by disease, and unable, single handed, to contend with its enemy, only required a little external aid in the form of nervines and nourishment of the proper kind, to enable it to assert its triumph. The vis vitæ was of much more importance to the medicine than the latter to it, while either was impotent without the other. We must therefore know when to cease our war with the disease and the deranged vital motions resulting. A morbid process that has defied and defeated the vis medicatrix natura, and the efforts of science when acting from opposite points, (for in inflammations we endeavor to weaken the system to subdue its enemy disease,) must be assailed from a common point, and instead of keeping up our warfare on a spent and prostrate disease, our care should be directed to the vanquished system we have been waring against only to save. In conclusion (I had intended extending the subject further, but the length already attained warns me to close,) allow me to write in brief, the history and result of a large majority of these severe forms of disease, as treated under the different systems. By the Hydropath, it may be written—died of water: by the Thomsonian—died of steam: by the Homœpath—died of sugar of milk: by the regular system—"veni, vidi, vici."

Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania.

This Society held its annual meeting at Hollidaysburg, on Wednesday and Thursday, May 30 and 31.

The meeting was called to order at 10 o'clock, May 30, by the President, Dr. Gemmill.

Drs. G. Emerson, J. A. Landis, and J. McCulloch, were appointed a committee to examine and report on the credentials of members.

This committee reported the names of those entitled to seats.

On motion of Dr. A. S. Kennedy, Dr. R. P. Thomas, of Philadelphia, was appointed Treasurer, *pro tempore*, in the absence of the Treasurer, Dr. West.

The Committee on Credentials reported that since the last

session two new societies had been organized, viz:—one for Franklin, and one for Washington County; the constitutions and by-laws of both of which had been approved by the censors of their respective districts.

On motion of Dr. H. Carpenter, the reading of the minutes of the last session of the Society was dispensed with.

The session was formally opened by the President, Dr. Gemmill, with a brief but pertinent address on the importance of the complete and systematic organization of the medical profession throughout the State, and the leading objects to be gained by such organization.

On motion of Dr. F. G. Smith, the thanks of the Society were tendered to Dr. Gemmill for his able and eloquent address, and that he be requested to furnish a copy for insertion in printed *Transactions*.

On motion of Dr. Morton, it was

Resolved, That the sessions of the Society be from nine to twelve o'clock, A. M., and from two to five, P. M.

On motion of Dr. Ross, it was

Resolved, That the reporters of the public press have every facility afforded them for taking minutes of the proceedings.

On motion of Dr. Thomas, it was

Resolved, That a Committee of Nomination, to consist of one from each County represented, selected by its delegates in attendance, be appointed; and that said committee be instructed to designate the place of meeting of this Society in 1856.

The report of the *Chester County Medical Society* was presented and read, and, on motion, referred to the Committee of Publication. It being understood that the committee by whom the report was drawn up have the privilege of making such corrections therein as they may deem proper.

AFTERNOON SESSION, *May* 30, 1855.

The minutes of the morning session were read and approved.

The Committee of Publication presented their report, as follows:—

The Committee of Publication beg leave to report that they have had printed *seven hundred and fifty* copies of the *Transactions* of the session of 1854, at an expense of $316.45.

Copies were transmitted to the several county societies, in proportion, as far as it could be effected, to their respective ratio of representation.

The Treasurer, Dr. F. West, presented his report, showing a balance in the Treasury of $32.

On motion of Dr. Condie, it was

Resolved, That the account of the Treasurer, with the vouchers accompanying the same, be referred to an auditing committee, and Drs. S. Lewis, S. A. Ogier, and J. H. Seltzer, were appointed the committee.

The following gentlemen were announced as constituting the Nominating Committee, agreeably to the resolution adopted at the morning session:—

Berks—Dr. J. H. Seltzer,
Blair—Dr. J. A. Landis.
Cambria—Dr. W. A. Smith.
Chester—Dr. S. A. Ogier.
Delaware—Dr. C. J. Morton.
Huntingdon—Dr. H. Orlady.
Lancaster—Dr. J. H. Ehler,
Mifflin—Dr. Bowers.
Montgomery—Dr. F. B. Poley.
Philadelphia—Dr. S. L. Hollingsworth.
Schuylkill—Dr. J. S. Carpenter.
Washington—Dr. J. Wishart.

The report of the *Huntingdon County Medical Society* was presented and read, and, on motion, referred to the Committee of Publication.

The report of the *Schuylkill County Medical Society* was presented and read, and, on motion, referred to the Committee of Publication.

On motion of Dr. Yardley, it was

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to examine the minutes of last session, and report any unfinished business that may appear thereon requiring action at the present session.

Drs. Yardley, Shrack, and Christie were appointed the committee.

A communication was received from the Reading-Room Association, of Hollidaysburg, granting the use of their reading room to the Delegates to the Pennsylvania State Society during their sojourn in the borough.

On motion of Dr. Condie, the privilege thus granted was very gratefully received, and the thanks of the Society were directed to be presented to the Association for their very polite and liberal action in the premises.

The report of the *Medical Society of the City of Reading*

and County of Berks was presented and read, and, on motion, referred to the Committee of Publication.

On motion of Dr. Carpenter, of Lancaster, the resolutions in reference to delinquent members appended to said report, were laid upon the table.

The Committee on Unfinished Business, in the minutes of last session, presented the following report:—

The Committee on Unfinished Business report that they have examined the minutes of last years' proceedings, and find the following committees were continued to report at this session, namely,

1st. Committee on Adulteration of Drugs. (See printed *Transactions*, vol. iv. p. 10.)

2d. Committee on Vaccination and the Preservation of Vaccine Virus. (See printed *Transactions*, vol. iv. p. 10.)

They further find that reports are due from the following committees appointed at the last session, namely,

1st. Committee on Blanks for Reports from County Societies. (See printed *Transactions*, vol. iv. p. 13.)

2d. Committee on Resolutions submitted by the Chester County Medical Society, through Dr. Parrish. (See printed *Transactions*, vol. iv. p. 17.)

Signed, THOS. H. YARDLEY,
JOHN SHRACK,
R. W. CHRISTIE.

On motion of Dr. Condie, it was

Resolved, That the several items of business referred to in said report, be now taken up *seriatim*.

It was stated, on behalf of the Chairman of the Committee on Adulteration of Drugs, that he had prepared a report on the subject, which would, no doubt, be presented in the course of the present session.

On motion, the committee was continued.

Dr. Carpenter, of Lancaster, stated that he had been requested by Dr. Parry, the chairman of the Committee on Vaccination, &c., to state that, inasmuch as no new facts had reached the committee in reference to the subject committed to them, they had not thought it worth while to prepare a report from the materials they had been enable to collect, and begged to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

Dr. Condie remarked, that, inasmuch as he was convinced that a digest of the facts at present known in reference to the preservative powers of vaccination, and to the preservation of vaccine virus in a state best adapted to produce effectually its

influence upon the system of those in whom it is inserted, and a comparison of the experience of the medical profession in different portions of Europe on the several points involved in these important questions, as given in the reports of several medical associations abroad, would be acceptable to the great body of the profession throughout our State, and that it would be calculated also to remove some erroneous views and practices still entertained, and pursued in relation to vaccination, and, at the same time, to promote the extension of vaccination among the community at large, by rendering its protective powers more uniform and certain; he, therefore, moved that the committee be continued, with instructions to report at the next session of the Society. Which resolution was unanimously adopted.

Dr. Cassidy asked leave to withdraw from the committee, which request was not granted.

The chairman of the Committee on Blanks for Reports of County Societies presented his report, which was laid upon the table for the present.

The Chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, presented by the Chester County Medical Society, not being present, the committee was, on motion, continued with instructions to report at the next session.

The committee appointed to audit the Treasurer's accounts, reported as follows :—

The committee appointed to audit the Treasurer's account, beg leave to report that they have attended to that duty, and find the said accounts correct. A balance remains in his hands of thirty-two dollars ($32). There is a balance due by the Society for printing the *Transactions* for 1854, amounting to eighty-seven dollars thirty-two cents ($87 32). Assessments are still due from the societies of Erie, Lycoming, Mercer, and York, for 1853 and 1854; and from Alleghany, Bradford, Cambria, Lebanon, Perry, and Susquehanna, for 1854, amounting in all to one hundred and fifty-seven dollars ($157).

Signed, SAMUEL LEWIS,
J. H. SELTZER,
SEPT. OGIER.

The following amendment to the Constitution was presented by Dr. Yardley: To insert in Sect. 2, Article III., after the word "societies," in the second line, the words "provided, however, that the officers of the society, and the chairmen of all committees who have reports to present, shall be delegates *ex-officio*." So that the section shall read—

"SECT. 2. The delegates shall receive their appointments from the county societies; provided, however, that the officers of the societies, and the chairmen of all committees who have reports to present, shall be delegates *ex-officio;* and to them shall be intrusted the management of the business and affairs of the Society."

The said amendment was unanimously adopted.

On motion of Dr. Kennedy, the following resolution was adopted:—

Resolved, That the Corresponding Secretary be, and he is hereby instructed to address a circular to the prominent physicians in those portions of the State in which no county medical societies exist, urging upon them the importance of organizing such societies without delay.

The report of the Committee on Forms of Reports for County Societies was presented and approved.

The resolution appended to said report was adopted, namely,

"*Resolved*, That the Committee on Forms for County Reports be, and they are hereby instructed to have printed a sufficient number of the forms as reported, and to transmit the same to the secretaries of the county societies, with the request that returns be made at the next session of the State Society in accordance therewith."

Dr. Morton offered the following preamble and resolution:

Whereas, The editors of the *Delaware County Republican*, *Blair County Whig*, *Raftsman's Journal*, and *Olive Branch*, have, with a spirit of genuine philanthrophy, constantly refused to insert, in their journals, the advertisements of patent or quack nostrums, and

Whereas, They have been laboring with a faithful and unapplauded zeal, to enlighten the public mind as to their injurious tendencies, thereby enabling the community to detect and discard the ignorant and illiterate pretender, who has too generally been successful, with the aid of a well-paid press, in foisting upon the ignorant and credulous his vile drugs; thus jeopardizing the health and lives of the people, both by their indiscriminate use and by contravening suitable and efficient medication: Therefore, as an evidence of our appreciation of a course so laudable and self-sacrificing, the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania do

Resolve, That the members of the County Medical Societies be requested to extend to them, as well as to their families while under their charge, the gratuitous services of the medical profession; and they further

Resolve, That the County Societies be requested to append

to their annual reports the names of all editors, and of their respective journals, who have constantly refused to insert the advertisements of empirical nostrums, and that the Committee of Publication be hereby authorized to furnish them annually with a copy of the *Transactions* of the Society.

On motion of Dr. Hartshorne, the said preamble and resolutions were referred to a committee of three, to report to-morrow morning.

Committee—Drs. Hartshorne, Morton, and Orlady.

The Committee of Nominations presented a report, which, on motion of Drs. Condie, and H. Carpenter, was referred back to the Committee, with instructions that it is the sense of this Society that, agreeably to the true meaning of the Constitution, no one can be placed on nomination for the offices of President, Vice-Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurer, or Delegates to the American Medical Association excepting Delegates who are in actual attendance at the sessions of the Society.

The report of the *Philadelphia County Medical Society* was presented and read, and, on motion, it was referred to the Committee of Publication.

The report of the *Lancaster County Medical Society* was presented and read, and on motion, it was referred to the Committee of Publication.

Morning Session, *May* 31, 1855.

The minutes of yesterday afternoon's session were read and approved.

The Committee on preamble and resolutions of Dr. Morton, presented the following report:—

The Committee appointed to consider the preamble and resolutions offered by Dr. C. J. Morton, in regard to the action of certain editors of the public press, in declining the insertion of quack advertisements, report that they are prepared to recommend the adoption of the preamble, with the alteration of a few words only, and that they would respectfully suggest the substitution, instead of the resolutions in question, of a single resolution, expressive of the sentiment of the Society, so that the preamble and resolution, as thus modified, may, together, read as follows:—

Whereas, The editors of the *Delaware County Republican*, *Blair County Whig*, and those of some other papers in this State, have, with a spirit of genuine philanthropy, and at

considerable sacrifice, constantly refused to insert, in their journals, the advertisements of patent or quack nostrums, and

Whereas, They have zealously labored to enlighten the public mind on the injurious tendency of such impositions, and, by withholding from them the influence of the press, to lessen the power of pretenders to jeopardize the health and lives of the ignorant and credulous, through the indiscriminate use of their compounds and the contravention by such use of suitable and efficient medication; therefore,

Resolved, That this Society views with high approbation and satisfaction the course of the editors and publishers alluded to, as furnishing an example well worthy to be followed by all who conduct the public press, and that we recommend to those members of the profession who reside within the vicinity of such journals, to afford them their patronage, and to testify, in such mode as their own sense of propriety and courtesy may dictate, their opinion of the obligation due, from us, to those who thus sustain the cause of legitimate medicine.

Signed, CHARLES J. MORTON,
HENRY HARTSHORNE,
H. ORLADY.

On motion of Dr. Carpenter, of Schuylkill, the report was adopted.

Dr. Carpenter, of Schuylkill, offered the following resolution:—

Resolved, That the members of this Society, and the profession generally, be strongly advised to use their influence with apothecaries and druggists to induce them to discontinue the purchase and sale of patent and quack medicines. And that the profession be recommended to furnish their patronage to those only who comply in this respect.

Dr. Neill moved to amend by adding after "quack medicines" the words "and patented instruments."

The proposed amendment gave rise to considerable discussion. Dr. Hartshorne moved to lay the whole subject upon the table, which was not agreed to. Finally, on motion of Dr. Biddle, the whole subject was referred to a committee of three—Drs. Condie, of Philadelphia; Carpenter, of Schuylkill, and Ogier, of Chester,—with instructions to report at the next session of the Society.

The following report was presented:—

The special committee, to whom were referred certain resolutions from the Berks County Medical Society, on the

subject of the adulteration of drugs manufactured in the United States, have the honor to submit the following report:—

That, in their opinion, the suggestions of the Berks County Medical Society are worthy the consideration and indorsement of the State Medical Society. The committee believe that the appointment of an *analytical commission*, to investigate the quality of drugs manufactured in the United States, under the sanction of the State Medical Society, might be productive of eminent benefit.

They recommend, therefore, the following resolution:—

Resolved, That an analytical commission of three members be appointed by the State Medical Society, to investigate the quality of drugs manufactured in the United States. That this commission shall report within two years to the Society, and that the necessary expenses of said investigation shall be paid by the Society.

Signed, J. B. Biddle,
J. Carson.

The report was adopted, the resolution thereunto appended adopted, and Drs. Biddle, Carson, and Lewis, appointed the commission thereby created.

Dr. Thomas offered the following preamble and resolution which were unanimously adopted.

Whereas, Section 1, of Article IV., of the Constitution, provides for the election of five Censors for each of the six censorial districts, and Sects. 6 and 7 of Art. V. constitute the Censors of each district a court of final jurisdiction in cases of appeal from the decisions of county societies; and, whereas, in the present organization of this Society it is impossible to make appointments for each of the six districts, therefore,

Resolved, That the Censors elected conjointly for the first and second districts, for the third and fourth districts, and for the fifth and sixth districts, shall have full and complete jurisdiction, under the Constitution, in all cases arising, irrespectively, in the first and second, in the third and fourth, and in the fifth and sixth districts.

The report of the *Blair County Medical Society* was presented and read, and, on motion, referred to the Committee of Publication.

The report of the *Delaware County Medical Society* was presented and read, and, on motion, referred to the Committee of Publication.

Lists of the officers and members of the Alleghany, Washington, and Franklin County Medical Societies were presented.

On motion of Dr. Kennedy, it was

Resolved, That the Recording Secretaries be instructed to prepare a digested index to the Reports of the County Societies for the last five years, for insertion in the forthcoming volume of *Transactions*.

On motion of Dr. Biddle, it was

Resolved, That a special committee be appointed to report a plan for effecting an extension of the organization into medical societies of the regular members of the profession throughout the State; and that said committee be requested to take forthwith, such measures as they may deem proper to effect such organization.

Committee—Drs. Gemmill, Biddle, and Wythes.

On motion of Dr. Condie, a committee, consisting of Drs. Condie and Seltzer, was appointed to draw up and present, at the next session of this Society, resolutions expressive of the feelings of its members on the loss they have sustained in the death of their late esteemed member and ex-President, Dr. John P. Heister, of Berks County, and of their desire to commemorate his worth as a man, and his talent and skill as a physician.

On motion of Dr. Henry Carpenter, a committee, consisting of Drs. H. Carpenter, and J. M. Gemmill, was appointed to present at the next session, resolutions expressive of the feelings of this Society on the loss they have sustained in the death of their late esteemed associate, Dr. C. O. Richards, of Lancaster.

On motion of Dr. Cassidy, the same committee were instructed to present, at the next session, resolutions of similar import in reference to the death of Dr. A. S. Baer, of Lancaster.

The amended report of the Committee of Nominations being read, on motion of Dr. Condie, it was

Resolved, That the officers therein named be. and they are hereby declared to be, the officers of this Society for the ensuing year.

President.—James S. Carpenter, of Schuylkill County.

Vice-Presidents.—J. Wishart, of Washington County; P. Cassidy, of Lancaster County; G. Emerson, of Philadelphia County; J. Shrack, of Montgomery County.

Recording Secretaries.—H. Carpenter, of Lancaster County; A. L. Kennedy, of Philadelphia County.

Corresponding Secretary.—T. H. Yardley, of Philadelphia.

Treasurer.—R. P. Thomas, of Philadelphia.

Censors, First and Second Districts.—J. B. Biddle, Philadelphia County; J. L. Atlee, Sen., Lancaster County; W. Worthington, Chester County; Hiram Corson, Montgomery County; Charles Martin, Lebanon County; R. E. James, Northampton County; G. F. Horton, Bradford County; Ed. Wallace, Berks County.

Third and Fourth Districts.—Jos. A. Landis, Blair County; J. B. Luden, Huntingdon County; Thos. Wood, Lycoming County; Jos. Henderson, Mifflin County; J. H. Case, Perry County.

Fifth and Sixth Districts.—Jno. Wishart, of Washington County; Addison, Pittsburg; J. P. Gazzam, Alleghany Co.; J. T. Ray, Mercer Co.; C. F. Perkins, Erie County.

Delegates to American Medical Association.—R. W. Christy, Blair County; J. H. Seltzer, Berks do.; F. B. Poley, Montgomery do.; C. J. Morton, Delaware do.; J. M. Gemmill, Huntingdon do.; Chas. Bower, Mifflin do.; John Wishart, Washington do.; J. S. Carpenter, Schuylkill do.; S. A. Ogier, Chester do.; A. Sheller, Lancaster do.; H. Orlady, Huntingdon do.

Additional Members Committee of Publication.—F. G. Smith, S. Lewis, T. Hewson Bache.

Place of meeting for the session of 1856, City of Philadelphia, on the last Wednesday in May, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

On motion of Dr. Morton, it was

Resolved, That the President elect be requested to deliver an address at the opening of the next session.

On motion of Dr. Thomas, the thanks of the Society were tendered to Dr. Gemmill, for the able, dignified, and courteous manner in which he has presided over its deliberations during its present session.

On motion of Dr. Morton, the thanks of the Society were tendered to its other officers for the able and efficient manner in which they have discharged their respective duties.

On motion of Dr. Thomas, the thanks of the Society were directed to be presented to the Commissioners of Blair County, for the use of the County Court House for its present session.

On motion of Dr. Biddle, the thanks of the Society were directed to be presented to the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, for the facilities afforded by them in the conveyance of the delegates to the present session.

On motion of Dr. H. Carpenter, the thanks of the Society

were tendered to the members of the profession of Blair County, for the courtesies extended by them to the delegates in attendance at its present session.

Adjourned.

D. FRANCIS CONDIE, }
HENRY CARPENTER, } *Secretaries.*

Proceedings of the Delaware County Medical Society.

A Stated Meeting of the Delaware County Medical Society was held in the Charter House, Media, August 28, 1855.

The President, Dr. MANLY EMANUEL, in the chair.

Members Present—Drs. Barton, Owen, Reuben H. Smith, Hotchkin, Heysham, and Morton.

Dr. Robt. K. Smith, who has received the appointment as Resident Physician of the Philadelphia Alms House, sent in his resignation as a member of the Society, which was read and accepted.

Dr. Barton exhibited to the Society, an interesting specimen of Monstrosity, which consists of two fœtuses, three months gone, having two distinct heads and chests; united just above the umbilicus. One was developed—the other minus an arm and leg.

Dr. Emanuel reported to the society the following obstetrical case, which occurred, in his practice, a few days previous to the meeting. He was called upon to visit a Mrs. ....., about eight o'clock, P. M., and upon arriving at the house, he found her in charge of two female attendants, who informed him, that they had been with her since the evening of the day before, but as the child was then partly born, they considered it unnecessary to call in medical aid, as they felt certain it would be born before it could be obtained. Upon making an examination by the touch, shortly afterwards, he discovered that she was laying in a pool of blood, with the right arm of the child presenting, externally—around which, the funis was much entangled. In this condition, her attendants stated, she had been in for over twenty-four hours. The doctor immediately turned and delivered—child dead. Whilst introducing the hand to turn, he found the placenta completely detached from parietes of the uterus, and laying beside the arm over the os uteri; thus accounting for the profuse and exhausting hœmorrhage, which had well-nigh proved fatal. However, with liberal use of stimulants, internally and externally, reaction took place about midnight, and she continued to do well until

the morning of the second day after the delivery, when, during the nurse's absence, she imprudently arose from the bed to supply her wants, and *died in a few minutes.* Dr. Emanuel enjoined upon her, from the beginning, perfect rest and recumbency. There was no external hœmorrhage.

Dr. C. S. Heysham reported a case of Craniotomy, he had performed with Dr. Walker, after several fruitless attempts to apply the forceps.

Dr. G. B. Hotchkin reported a case of diabetes in which he had discovered in the urine a large quantity of sugar, but owing to a candid and unfavorable prognosis the case had passed into hands of an empirical nondescript.

On motion, a Committee of five members was appointed to prepare a sanitary report of the county for the present year, to be read before the State Society in May next; whereupon the president appointed Drs. Heysham, Hotchkin, Barton, Griffiths and Huddleson.

On motion—adjourned.

Attest, C. J. MORTON, *Secretary.*

Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania, at its Annual Session, held at Hollidaysburg, May, 1855. Vol. V.—*Published by the Society.*"—pp. 160.

In looking over the present volume of the "Transactions," while we find much of interesting and valuable matter, and much to encourage the hope, that all that has been anticipated from a thorough organization of the Profession, *may be* ultimately realized—we are constrained to acknowledge that there is throughout, unmistakable evidence of most deplorable apathy on the part of the great body of the profession, in every section of the State. But about one-fourth of the counties in the State were represented, and even from these fourteen in number, out of one hundred and fifteen delegates appointed, only forty-two were in attendance. From Chester and Delaware counties, but two (Drs. Ogier and Morton,) of the thirteen appointed, attended. The county reports exhibit the same apathethic condition. All open with complaints of the remissness of Physicians in furnishing material; in some instances but two or three communications have been received by the committee. Even in Philadelphia, only ten replies were received to two hundred and thirteen circulars issued. The absence of any extensive epidemic visitation is generally urged as the excuse for silence, yet it really

furnishes none. It is not merely the history of *epidemics* that is sought by these reports—but rather to accumulate facts in regard to disease in every form; so that sound principles of prophylaxis and treatment may be established.

The President, Dr. Gemmill, in his excellent address, dwells with great force upon the importance of thorough organization. We would urge every Physician, who has doubtingly asked—"of what use will it be to me to join the County Society?"—to peruse attentively the address, and unless he is unworthy of his profession, he will ask the question no longer, but forthwith unite with his brethren, and become an efficient worker. We feel assured, that the great majority of those who now hold themselves aloof from the County Societies, would not continue to do so, if the subject was once brought properly before their minds. There are selfish considerations enough, to influence those who are proof against the higher. The pleasure and information derived from meeting with neighboring practitioners—the volume of "Transactions of the State Society," to which each member is entitled, and which can be obtained in no other way—and in the case of Chester and Delaware Counties, a copy of the "Medical Reporter," free of expense—may be mentioned to those who stop to consider the expense, as an offset to the small sum required as the annual contribution.

It is to be hoped that all who have heretofore remained aloof from the County Societies, will examine closely their position, and see if duty to their profession, the public, and themselves, will not compel them to join heart and hand in a movement, that has for its sole object, the advancement of science in matters of vital importance to the well being of the human race.

The committee having charge of the preparation of Forms for County Reports, have submitted a plan, which, for conciseness and completeness, must meet with universal favor. The printed blanks, will, we presume, in due time, be forwarded to the County Societies, and distributed among the members. This system will, no doubt, greatly enhance the value of the matter hereafter elicited.

An unfortunate blunder occurred in the reading of the report from Chester County, which rendered much of it an unintelligible jumble, and drew forth some critical and sarcastic remarks; but when the matter was examined into, it was found, greatly to the relief of the gentleman who prepared it, that the whole obscurity arose from the Secretary not reading the pages in their proper order.

Resolutions were unanimously adopted, highly complimentary of the editors of the "Delaware County Republican," "Blair County Whig," and some other papers, for having "with a genuine spirit of philanthropy, and at considerable sacrifice, constantly refused to insert in their journals, the advertisements of patent or quack nostrums."

This is right, and we hope this public notice of the highly honorable course of these journalists, will have the effect to make others, less scrupulous, pause to reflect upon the subject, and inquire whether they do not, by spreading these lying advertisements before a credulous public, make themselves parties to a wicked swindle, both in the lives and money of their subscribers. J. P.

REPORTS OF CASES.

A Case of Poisoning with Arsenious Acid. Over one drachm taken. Recovery. By C. J. Morton, M. D., *of Delaware County.*

The particulars of the following case may be note worthy, not only as an addition to the statistics of poisoning, but as showing the propriety of treating such cases upon rational therapeutic principles, and relying less upon antidotes of but doubtful efficiency.

Mrs. A., the subject of this case was a widow-lady, aged 35 years, who swallowed, with a suicidal intention, over one drachm of Arsenious Acid, and a vial of laudanum in the evening before going to bed, on the 19th of December, 1854. I was hurriedly sent for about six hours after she had taken it; the messenger urging me to make all possible speed, as he was fearful she would scarcely survive my arrival at the house, which was about midnight. I found her lying upon the sofa, —countenance of waxen paleness—extremities cold—pulse, very feeble and intermitting—complaining of much thirst, and calling almost continually for water, which induced active emesis as soon as swallowed—violent burning pain at the epigastrium, which was extremely tender on pressure—burning sensation in the mouth and over the face, neck and breast. She has had three dejections since taken. The last one of a greenish black color, of a watery consistence and extremely fœtid smell, with small shreds of mucus floating through it:—the urine and matters ejected from the stomach, presented a similar appearance.

Her sister now informed me that she had been engaged the day before in the mill, as usual, and after quitting in the even-

ing, she partook of a hearty supper, conversed for a while after with the family, and retired to bed, soon afterwards she commenced moaning and retching, that they would have sent sooner for me, had they been able to procure her consent. This stoical indifference, manifested for her recovery, and the hesitancy she displayed in answering my questions, caused me to suspect at once, that she had taken some irritant or corrosive poison, though she positively denied taking any thing, except what her sister had given her to tranquilize the stomach. However, upon the presumption that she had taken Arsenious Acid, I ordered her magnesia, one ounce in one pint of water, (as recommended by Christison, and others, when the hydrated peroxide of Iron cannot be obtained,) one table-spoon full to be given frequently, together with morphia, grs. $\frac{1}{4}$, every half hour, to be suspended when the emesis ceased, or patient became very drowsy; sinapisms to epigastrium and extremities; flour gruel and ice-cream as demulcents; ice to be given freely, together with a tea-spoon full of brandy every few minutes.

21st. 8 A. M. Slight reaction; pulse more favorable; cheeks slightly flushed; emesis still very distressing, not being able to retain anything upon the stomach since first taken, over five or ten minutes at a time; she now complains of a "dead" sensation of the face, neck and breast; intolerance of light, and eyes much swollen and injected; constant hawking of tough tenacious mucus; great dysphagia, which continued for nearly three weeks, not being able to swallow even thin gruels without much discomfort; epigastrium very tender on pressure; vomiting causing great agony; urine taken with catheter, half an ounce of greenish black color, and syrupy consistance.

She now became sensible of her terrible situation, and acknowledged, after again pressing my question, that she had taken a vial of laudanum and about a tea-spoon full of Arsenic, for the purpose of destroying her life. Magnesia omitted; give morphia and ice as yesterday; cupped the epigastrium freely, and applied a large mush poultice to abdomen; no dejection since yesterday.

22nd.—Reaction more complete; vomited three or four times since my last visit; diaphoresis profuse; the papular eruption which appeared on the face and neck yesterday, has diffused itself over the entire body; coalescing in patches, so as to form large vibices. Some over two inches in diameter; face very edematous, which followed the same rule that the numbing sensation and eruption had done, attacking suc-

cessively the face, breast, and extremities; ordered morphia gr. ¼, after every emesis; calomel grs. v, every four hours, until bowels moved; urine taken with catheter, half-pint.

23d, 11 A. M.—Still improving; slept well; has had three dejections; asked for food. 9 P. M.—Sent for in haste; vomiting returned; ordered morph. grs. ¼, every half hour until sickness was allayed; re-applied cups and mush poultice.

24th.—Very comfortable; slept well last night; no sickness of stomach since last night; the case now convalesced gradually, though it was over three months before she could use her hands and feet with their accustomed freedom; and at times, especially in damp weather, the numbness was so great that she walked with great difficulty.

The favorable termination of this case is doubtless attributable to the poison being taken upon a full stomach—it became enveloped in the food—the vomiting came on soon after, the arsenic was carried out with the injesta before absorption could take place to a sufficient extent to prove fatal. Recoveries have taken place, however, where a much large quantity has been taken. 1. In Blondel's case, two drachms were taken.—(*American Journal of Pharmacy, New Series*, Vol. I. p. 350.) 2. A case by Robeson, one drachm and a-half taken. 3rd. Bardsly case, two drachms taken.—(*American Journal of Medical Sciences, New Series*, Vol. XXII. p. 262.)

The quantity taken in the above case was a fraction over one drachm, which could be correctly ascertained, as the package from which it was taken, was purchased by herself at the drug store. She calling for half an ounce to destroy vermin, although stealthily secreted for the above purpose.

EDITORIAL.

Yellow Fever.—This disease has been prevailing to a frightful extent at Portsmouth and Norfolk, Va. The mortality has been very great, and among the victims are embraced a number of Physicians. It seems that those who have gone from more Northern latitudes, have nearly all had the fever, and many have perished.

A Manuel of Clinical Medicine, and Physical Diagnosis.—By T. H. Tanner, M. D.—This little work has been republished in this country, by *Blanchard & Lee, of Phila-*

delphia, to which they have added the "Code of Ethics of the American Medical Association."

We would bespeak for this publication a favorable reception. It is admirably well suited to direct the mind of the practitioner, to a careful and critical diagnosis of disease, as presented to him at the bed-side. Whoever will study this book, and closely follow its suggestions, must attain great accuracy in his observation and analysis of symptoms.

☞ We have received since our last issue, the "*Transactions of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama*," at its Eighth Annual Session. It is a creditable volume, containing several excellent addresses, and other interesting papers.

Rushton's Treatise on Cod Liver Oil, giving its curative properties and uses in various diseases, has also been received.

☞ A STATED MEETING of the *Chester County Medical Society*, will be held at the White Hall Hotel, West Chester, on Tuesday, October 30th, at 11 o'clock.

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE.

Fissures of the Nipple during Lactation.—Nurses are frequently affected with fissures on and about the Nipple. Nothing can be more painful than nursing under these circumstances, and frequently it is necessary to discontinue it, at least on one side. M. Bourdel, Assistant Professor of the Medical Faculty of Montpelier, says, he has used, for ten years, a method which he has never seen fail when the fissures were not due to a constitutional cause, whether syphilitic or other.

The substance used is the tincture of benzoin, which is applied, by means of a fine badger's hair pencil, to the cracked or ulcerated surface, so as to completely cover them with this liquid. Only the first application is painful, and this is characterized by a smarting, proportioned to the depth of the ulcerations, and does not continue more than a quarter of an hour.

The tincture of bonzoin forms a kind of covering on the surface of the nipple, which protects it, and the child takes the breast without any repugnance, even when the tincture is not dry. This covering, when hardened, defends the ulcer from contact with the air and the garments, and dispenses with lotions, which are not well borne. Lactation is not interrupted, for it ceases to be painful. Cicatrization takes place at the end of some days. The treatment is never prolonged beyond twelve days.—*American Medical Monthly.*

Prolapsus Ani treated with Nitrate of Silver.—Mr. Lloyd, of Bartholomew's Hospital, has succeeded in curing many of these tiresome cases.

The plan is to smear the whole surface of the protruded bowel with the solid caustic, and then return it. The application is repeated once in a week or fortnight, as may be requisite. Mr. Lloyd informed us that he rarely found it necessary to employ it more than three or four times; and further, that although the plan had been an invariable resort with him, for a long series of years, that he had never known any untoward consequences to result. In cases in which the protruded bowel has become swollen, and is difficult of reduction, the effect of the caustic is surprising. In one such case, in which we witnessed its application, the mass could be easily seen to diminish in size under its influence. Mr. Lloyd does not limit the use of this remedy solely to prolapsus, but adopts it also in cases of hemorrhoidal congestion, and thickening of the mucous membrane about the verge of the anus.—*Medical Times and Gazette.*

Judicial Decision in Antwerp Respecting Medical Secrecy.—The Lower Court of Antwerp has just decided that a medical man who registers a child whose mother he has attended in labor, is not bound to divulge the name of the latter, if he have made a promise to keep the secret. The question and the trial had caused much sensation among our Belgian brethren, and we are happy to state that a large number of them joined in a subscription to support Dr. Bessens, who refused to give t e name of the mother in a case of the description mentioned above. The privilege thus conceded is honorable to our profession, and would have the tendency, were it generally granted, to diminish the cases of infanticide.—*Lancet, May* 26, 1855.

Excision of a bar of Lead from the Stomach—Recovery.—Dr. John Bell, of Wapello, Iowa, on the 3rd of January last removed from the stomach of L. W. Bates, a bar of lead 10¾ inches in length, and weighing 9½ ounces avoirdupoise, which he had swallowed on the preceding Christmas, while performing a favorite feat of running the bar down his throat. He was placed under the influence of chloroform during the operation, and recovered without the appearance of any unfavorable symptom. The case is reported at length in the Iowa Medical Journal for April and May, 1855.

BIOGRAPHICAL DEPARTMENT.

NATHAN HAYES, was born in the Township of West Marlborough, Chester County, Pennsylvania, on the 5th of February, 1787. His parents were Job and Sarah Hayes, whose maiden name was Henry. He received a good common education, in the vicinity of his birth-place, and, at a later period, acquired some knowledge of the Latin language. He commenced the study of Medicine with Dr. T. Griffith, a practitioner in the Village of Unionville, but Dr. G. removing from the county before the preliminary studies of his pupil were completed, they were subsequently prosecuted under the direction of Wm. Baldwin, M. D , then of Wilmington, Delaware, and since known as the sagacious and indefatigable explorer of the Botanical treasures of the Southern States.

In the Spring of 1808, Mr. Hayes received the degree of *Doctor of Medicine*, in the University of Pennsylvania. The subject of his inaugural thesis, was the "*modus operandi of medicines;*" and at the public examination on its merits, the Professor who had charge of it, undertook to be severely critical; he made an abrupt, and rather harsh attack upon some of the views and opinions broached by the young candidate, and as Mr. Hayes was remarkably quiet, unpretending, and withal somewhat rustic, in his manner, the Professor evidently expected to abash, and utterly disconcert the awkward looking country student, who had thus ventured to advance ideas of his own, not sanctioned by the School. But Hays was not the man to quail before mere human authority, nor

to receive the dogmas of any school, unquestioned. Much to the surprise of the Professor, as well as to the amusement of the numerous audience, he camly undertook to "argufy the topic," with his critical teacher; and he maintained his ground with so much tact and resolution, that it was deemed expedient, after an edifying trial of skill, to let the discussion drop, and permit the intractable candidate to carry his *opinions* as well as his diploma with him, to Chester County. The fact was, Dr. Hayes, with a singularly cool, deliberate, unsophisticated, and rather unpolished manner, possessed an intellect of rare strength and shrewdness, with great independence of character. He was always ready to discuss any topic, whether of professional or general interest, and never hesitated to make known and vindicate his own views, either in public or in private.

On receiving the honors of the University, Dr. Hayes commenced the practice of Medicine in the Township of Edgemont, Delaware County. At the end of about a year, however, he removed to the neighborhood of Unionville, where he settled,—built himself a handsome residence, and continued the practice of his profession during the remainder of his life. In the year 1812 he married *Sarah*, daughter of John Lungren, of Chester Creek, Delaware County, by whom he had four children, of whom Ferdinand E. Hayes, Esq., is the only survivor. Dr. Hayes was constitutionally somewhat predisposed to pulmonary consumption, to which formidable disease he fell a victim in the month of July, 1819.

Thus was cut off, in the flower of his age, one of the most sagacious and promising members of the medical profession, which the county of Chester has ever produced. While his intellectual endowments commanded the admiration of his contemporaries, his character as a man and a citizen was held in the highest esteem, and his premature loss was sincerely mourned by all who had the happiness to know him. W. D.

Biographical Notice of Dr. Jonathan Morris, of Delaware County, Pa., reported to the *Delaware County Medical Society*, by C. J. Morton, M. D.

Continued from our last No.

It was at an advanced period of his career, however, that the new views of Cullen and Brown and Darwin, had impugned the old doctrines of medicine. His mind was therefore never divested of its early confidence in the humoral pathology—a doctrine which appears to be reviving in a modified form in

the present day. His mind, however, was stored with co-temporary literature, and although his library was small, it contained the leading works on practical medicine.

Ambrose Parè and Cheselden, were his chief authorities in surgery; the commentaries of Van Swieten, and the writings of Sydenham and Hoffman, were texts for the practice of medicine. But most confidence was given to his own accurate observation and experience for materials of profitable thought, and on this did he rely at the bed-side of the sick. He had also a quick perception of the analogy of cases, which is not an unfruitful source of clinical tact and efficiency.

If Dr. Morris was ignorant of any general principle of theraputics, he was not more unfortunate than many of his successors of the present day. Be that as it may,—so far as can be recollected of conversations in the last twelve years (and more,) of his life, his views, in regard to the treatment of individual cases, are entitled to profound respect. His inductive faculties were of a high order, and his management and treatment of disease, were always the result of cautious investigation and careful thought. There was nothing false or empirical in any thing he done;—whatever knowledge he possessed was as freely imparted to others, as is the light from heaven. It was said that he was governed at the bed-side of the sick, by observation and experience, it was rather through the influence of some principle of pathology or theraputics wrought out thereon in his own mind, and not the mere copy of a former act;—the red-herring was not prescribed for the Englishman merely because the Frenchman had eaten of it and recovered. The same habit of thought and proceeding may be recorded in the history of every intelligent physician, who has passed through a few years of probation.

His familiar remedies were those now placed at the head of their respective classes for efficiency, and are recurred to every day in the treatment of disease—save those of new discovery, and such as an improved Chemistry and Pharmacy have since supplied. Nor would his combinations suffer in comparison with prescriptions of modern times, nor did he administer them in *homeopathic doses*. Calomel and Jalap were his great *depurators* of the liver and alimentary canal; opium and camphor, the tranquilizers and soporifics; opium, assafœtida, and tincture of castor, his favorite anti-spasmodics.

The writer desires to give a fair representation of the claims of Dr. Morris to respectful consideration. We are apt to "think our fathers fools, so wise we grow," but it should be known that those primitive times was an age of

strong-minded men, and the Doctor had a large infusion of sound common sense in his mental constitution. It is hoped the above may not appear unnecessarily precise. We have all seen the imperfections and abuses, which, for years past, have cast discredit on our profession throughout the land. It is therefore pertinent to show, that the *Father of regular medicine*, in Delaware county, had neither part nor lot in these abominations. His highly respected grandson, Dr. Morris C. Shallcross, of Philadelphia, can well bear testimony to the high professional spirit—the keen sensibility to the honor of his calling, that was ever manifested by his beloved ancestor—the kind friend of his infancy and youth—the generous benefactor at approaching manhood.

Dr. Morris attached great importance to the functions of the liver, in health and disease. To its *obstructions* were attributed other and remote disorders,—more particularly dysentery, erysipelas and jaundice,—for these he considered mercury, in some form, the appropriate remedy. In the former he considered opium indispensable, and in sufficient doses to procure rest. The loss of vitality, from constant exertion and loss of sleep, was considered to be often the prominent cause of fatal results.

To what causes he assigned our Summer and Autumnal fevers, is not known; but Peruvian bark was used by him at an early date, in their different types, usually preceeded by emetic medicine.

It was surgery, however, that gave chief prominence to his character as a practitioner. Patients come long distances for the benefit of his advice, and accommodations were provided for them when detention was necessary. He was skillful in the diagnosis and treatment of dislocations and fractures, and the assertion may be hazarded, that he never failed to reduce the former, nor subject to torture a patient when it did not exist. In the treatment of ulcers, of an ordinary or specific character, he was also distinguished; and at a time when the means which modern science and art supply to diagnose disease, were wanting, considered mercury a remedy to eradicate cancer itself.

The red oxide of mercury—the lunar and vegetable caustics, were the usual excitants and escharotics employed. He never *dried up* a long established drain upon the system, without substituting a seaton or issue to compensate for the change. Plastic operations were not then practiced, but he corrected with the knife, deformities occasioned by burns and lacerated wounds. To confiding faith in the final efficacy of

remedies, he added patience and perseverence in the prosecution of his purpose.

When the sound of cannon, at the battle of Brandywine, reached the neighborhood, in 1777, he hastened at once to the scene of conflict, and in the vicinity of Concord Meeting House, assisted the medical staff in the care of the wounded, and speeding the departure of such as could be moved. Dr. Rush, who was Physician-General to the middle department, visited the sufferers on that occasion, and to him Dr. Morris made urgent remonstrances on the defective police of the hospitals, as well as the neglect observable there.

He never engaged in obstetrics, it was in the hands of female accoucheurs, who retained it to the close of the last century. To a freedom from the wear-and-tear of that vocation, both on body and mind, may be partly imputed his exemption from many infirmities.

Dr. Morris was not less exemplary in private than he was useful in public life. Without any disposition to engage in far-off missions of doubtful philanthrophy—a present sense of obligation to present duty in his appropriate sphere—were the governing motives of his conduct. Every trust confided to him, was discharged with signal ability and conscientious fidelity. He never compromised a principle of truth or justice;—was universally esteemed for humanity and professional skill;—no chicanery ever infringed the strictes rules of professional etiquette, or sullied the purity of his character in private life. He moved steadily on in the majesty of his own pure heart, seeking neither sympathy nor praise.

We commend to the profession so honorable an example, as worthy of imitation. Dr. Morris was a faithful physician, who never passed by a case, whether among the rich or poor, with neglect or indifference. He was religious. Having neither taste nor leisure for theological disquisition, he practiced, in humility, the Christian virtues,—

"Love to God, and good-will to men."

He was a moral man, in all things temperate, just, and merciful. Illustrating by a long life of "health, peace, and competence," the truth of that law which declares—"whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap."

After a day of duties fulfilled, Dr. Morris finished a term of earthly existence, wanting one month of ninety years. He died on the 7th of April, 1819. He left Darby a few months before his death, and was sojourning with his son at London Grove, Chester County, where he died.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

Proceedings of Chester County Medical Society.

A stated meeting of the Chester County Medical Society was held October 30th, 1855. The resolution in regard to the presentation of Bills—proposed at the meeting of January 30th, 1855, was taken up and passed, amended as follows:—Resolved, That the members of this society will consider their bills due at the termination of each individual case of sickness. The report of the committee on Fee-Bill was taken up and with slight amendments, adopted. The committee were directed to have it printed for the benefit of the members of the society.

Dr. John Windle, of Hamorton, was proposed for membership. Dr. Gunkle read an interesting paper upon "*talipes varus*," and exhibited an ingenious instrument of his own invention, for the correction of the deformity. (The paper is published in another part of the "Reporter.") Dr. W. Worthington reported the following case:

On Sunday, October 21st, 1855, about seven o'clock, P. M., I was called to visit immediately, a young man, about twenty-five years of age. For two or three years he had been the subject of Phthisis Pulmonalis. He had cough, expectora-

tion, night sweats, and most of the usual symptoms incident to an advanced stage of this disease. On the Friday previous, he had applied to a well known empiric, for medicine to cure what he supposed to be an attack of "*Fever and Ague*;" but what I believe was nothing more than Hectic Fever. He received an ounce vial containing in solution a portion of Sulphate of Quinine, with directions to take it immediately before the *chill.* In the latter part of the day he died, he took the entire contents of the bottle at three doses, at short intervals. About five o'clock he went to bed, complaining of pain in his head, and remarking soon afterwards that "the dose was too strong for him." He soon lost the power of speech, and became insensible. I saw him about ten minutes past seven o'clock. I found him lying on his back, with his head thrown backwards, and pushed down into the pillow.—His face was slightly livid—his mouth partly open, and tongue congested. The eyes were partly open, and the conjunctiva somewhat suffused. The pupils were considerably dilated, and not sensible to the light of a candle when brought near to them. His respiration was slow, irregular, and spasmodic.—The pulse was very irregular, making several distinct pulsations, and then becoming for a time almost imperceptible.—The muscles of the neck, back, face, extremities, and chest seemed to be in a state of spasmodic, but not constant contraction. Those of the face and upper extremities in a state of tremor. I was told before I saw him, that he was thought to be in a dying condition, a statement which my own observation soon verified. From the symptoms which his case presented when I saw him, and its previous history, I regarded it as one of congestion of the brain, produced by the large dose of quinine which he had taken. The debilitated condition of body, and consequent low state of vitality which his previous malady had induced, no doubt facilitated the unfortunate result, which this injudicious and improper dose occasioned.

I have no positive means of knowing how much sulphate of quinine the bottle contained, but the inside of it was covered with crystals of this substance. The quantity was much too large to be dissolved in the amount of water used. I collected some of these crystals and placed them in the field of a microscope of high power, and found they were quinine.

This is but another instance of premature death by taking medicine from improper hands. Although these cases are not unusual when administered by incompetent and irregular practitioners, they afford no salutary admonition to the credulous,

and can only be mentioned as events soon to be forgotten, while they neither abate the ignorance which accompanies them, nor cure the evils they inflict upon society. Empiricism will still flourish amidst every calamity, and death follow in its footsteps, though the light of science, and the truth of experience, shed their brightest rays over every community.

Dr. McClurg referred to the successful use of a combination of Sulphate of Quinine and Tr. Ferri. Chlorid. internally, and a solution of Arg. Nit. externally, in cases of Erysipeles.

Dr. Hartman referred to the use of the Oxide of Silver in cases of morbid sensibility of the stomach and bowels—as proposed by Prof. Wood. He detailed a case of Chronic disease of the stomach, in which the use of the following prescription, in connection with a milk diet, has been attended with the most remarkable improvement: ℞ Argent. Ox. grsj. Ipecac. grs. ¼. Ext. Hyos. grs. ½.—in pill, after each meal.

Dr. Parish asked to be excused from serving on the Sanitary Committee. On motion of Dr. W. Worthington it was *resolved* that the resolution of the last stated meeting appointing a sanitary committee, be rescinded, and that hereafter the President of the society shall appoint only the Chairman of the committee, who shall have power to select his associates. The President appointed Dr. Isaac Thomas, Chairman of the sanitary committee for the ensuing year.

Dr. W. Worthington offered the following resolution: That a committee be appointed to report upon the propriety of making application to the Legislature for aid in printing the Transactions of the State Society; and if deemed expedient to prepare a paper upon the subject to accompany the annual report with the view of bringing the matter before the State Society at its next meeting. Drs. W. Worthington, Brinton, and McClurg, were appointed the committee.

The committee upon Essays appointed Dr. Brinton to prepare one for the next stated meeting.

JACOB PRICE, Rec. Sec.

Proceedings of the Delaware County Medical Society.

A meeting of the Delaware County Medical Society, was held at the Charter House, Media, Nov. 27th, 1855. The President, Dr. Manly Emanuel, in the Chair.

Members present—Drs. George Smith, R. H. Smith, Emanuel, Thompson, Hotchkin, Rowland, Maris and Morton.

Dr. Edward Maris, of Howelville, was proposed as a mem-

ber, and being present was duly elected, signed the constitution and paid the initiatory fee.

On motion of Dr. C. J. Morton, of Chester, a committee, consisting of Drs. Morton, Thompson, and R. H. Smith, was appointed to draft and present at the present session of the society, resolutions expressive of the feelings of its members on the death of our highly-gifted brother and associate, Dr. Joseph Wilson, and of their desire to commemorate his worth and talents as a physician. The committee reported as follows:

Whereas, It has pleased an All Wise Providence to remove by death from our midst, our deeply-lamented friend and colleague, Dr. Joseph Wilson, a highly-valued honorary member of this Society, and

Whereas, It is due to his memory and beneficial to the surviving members of the medical profession, to hold up for imitation his purity of purpose and strict professional integrity of character, as well as the constant devotion and zeal exhibited by him in his efforts to advance medical organization, medical improvement and medical ethics. Therefore

Resolved, That the members of the Delaware County Medical Society, have received with unfeigned sorrow, the intelligence of the death of Dr. Wilson, and that they desire thus to commemorate his worth as a man and his talents and skill as a physician; as well as to express the heavy loss his surviving friends have sustained, both in and out of the profession, and the community at large.

Resolved, That a copy of the above preamble and resolutions be transmitted by the Secretary to his near relations.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to prepare a short Biographical Sketch of Dr. Wilson, to be appended to the sanitary report of the county for the present year, and to be published with it in the *Transactions* of the State Society of next year. Accordingly Drs. Morton, Rowland and Hotchkin were appointed said committee.

Dr. Emanuel reported to the society the anomaly of a patient under his care, having both intermittent fever and pertussis, the symptoms of both being well marked; thus affording another proof that two diseases can occasionally pervade the system at the same time.

There was a free interchange of opinion as regards the propriety of using warm baths in infantile convulsions. The use of which followed by stimulating frictions to the surface were advocated by Drs. Rowland, Emanuel, Hotchkin, Smith and Thompson, and condemned by Dr. Morton, who maintain-

ed that they were uncalled for in mild or teething convulsions, as the attack would pass off without their use, as they were known to do in numerous instances before there was time to prepare the bath for the child; but that in the severer forms of the disease, if they did not immediately revive by the stimulation of the warm water that the sedation of the capillaries secondarily was such as to cause still further internal congestion, and that it was impossible to maintain warmth of the surface and extremities. He had of late entirely omitted their use and had used instead—cups to the temples and nucha, and the constant use of Sinapisms to the abdomen and extremities, together with stimulating enemata of Lac Assafoetida, and of Turpentine, of the latter ℥ss. in a pint of warm salt water, to a child four years of age; treating the child internally upon rational principles after it was able to swallow.

ATTEST—C. J. MORTON, Secretary.

REPORTS OF CASES.

Case of Difficult Labor.—Reported by Dr. C. SWAYNE.

On the 3d of d3 mo., 1855, I was called to see M. E. P., a colored girl, aet. 15 years and 10 months, in labor—second pregnancy. The first child had been delivered with forceps, from the superior strait. Her pains recurred at intervals of about ten minutes and had gradually increased in force and frequency from the day before. Upon examination I found the membrane protruding like a knuckle of intestine, almost beyond the vulva. I could not detect the presenting part. The os uteri was considerably dilated though not very yielding. At 1 o'clock the waters came away; I then discovered it was a right shoulder presentation. The next pain, which came on immediately, prolapsed the right hand. Thinking it advisable to have assistance, I despatched a messenger for Dr. Townsend; on his arrival we made every exertion to turn the child, but were unsuccessful. We found the pelvic cavity unusually small, with an unnatural projection of the promontory of the sacrum; this in connection with the rigid contraction of the uterus rendered all our efforts to turn, abortive. We administered an opiate and left, to meet the next morning at 8 o'clock. On the 4th found she had slept considerably during the night, pulse feeble, 112, child alive. The bowels and bladder having been well evacuated, we again made efforts to turn, but found the organs still unyielding. We did not think it ad-

visable to use much force whilst that condition continued, and concluded to defer further action until 2 o'clock, P. M., at which time we requested Dr. S. H. Harry to meet us. 2 P. M., owing to the pain caused by the examinations, it was almost impossible to keep the patient under our control. We therefore thought it advisable to administer an anasthetic agent to quiet her and produce relaxation of the uteras. We used a mixture of Chloroform one part, Ether Sulph. four parts. When it had produced partial insensibility, Dr. Harry proceeded to operate, but met with the same difficulties that we had encountered, although the Chloric-Ether kept her comparatively quiet, it did not produce that entire relaxation that some writers ascribe to it. She frequently requested to have the quantity increased. We all satisfied ourselves that turning was impracticable, and that it would be advisable to proceed to the last resort—the dismembering of the child. Passed urine freely during the day; in the morning, pulse 140, weak, surface cool. Directed opii. gr. j. every four hours if the pains should be harrassing—diet chicken soup, gruel and rice water. Pulse in the evening 125. Requested Dr. Michiner to meet us next morning at 9 o'clock. Dr. Harry and self met in the morning, but not being provided with suitable instruments we defered further action until afternoon, at which time we expected Dr. Michiner. Patient slept considerably last night, pulse 125, skin natural, tongue moist, has not suffered much pain since, child dead, arm swollen and vesicated. 2 P. M., Dr. E. Michiner and all present. We determined to evacuate as far as practicable the contents of the thorax and abdomen, and endeavor to fasten the crochet on the vertebral column, and in the diminished size of the foetus, hoped thus to effect delivery; but after removing the protruding arm and through an opening in the axilla as much of the thoracic and abdominal viscera as possible, we were unable to effect our object without the danger of doing serious injury to the mother. We therefore concluded to leave the case until decomposition should render the fœtus more pliant and thus facilitate delivery, or the uterus by its action on its diminished mutilated contents produce spontaneous evolution and thus accomplish what we had so long in vain striven to do. Patient complained of being chilly; gave Tinct Camphor and put hot bricks about her. She soon became comfortable and called for chicken soup. Prescribed Sulph. Magnesia oz. ss. also Sol. Morphia ʒj. every 4 hours.

6th. Called to see my patient early in the morning; found her quite comfortable, not much pain. On enquiry of the

mother how her daughter had passed the night? Her answer was, pretty well since. I asked her since what? Since the child was born, was the reply and true enough the child was born and buried. Spontaneous evolution had undoubtedly taken place; the mutilation it had undergone giving it room to change its position. They stated that they were sitting at the table, on hearing some one jump on the floor they opened the door and found the patient standing at the window. They immediately put her to bed. The uterus commenced contracting vigorously and the feet soon made their appearance, and the child was born in about an hour. Fearing violent inflammation from the severe ordeal she had passed, I enjoined entire rest, strict antiphlogistic regimen and directed a small quantity of Sol. Morphia.

7th. Patient did not rest well last night, headache, tongue covered with a moist white fur, pulse 120, with considerable force, abdomen tympanitic, tenderness over the uterine region. Gave Ol. Ricini ℥ ss. ol. Terebinth gtt. xv. Stupes over the abdomen. V. s. oz. xvj.

8th. Patient more comfortable, medicine operated well with considerable discharge of gas, Tympanites relieved, pulse 108, skin cool, tongue moist.

10th. After-pains quite severe; has taken Sol. Acetat Morphia, Aq Camphor, keeping them moderately controlled: not much feverish excitement; vaginal discharges very offensive; ordered injections of tepid water; bowels being loose, opii. gr. j. every three hours if required; diet—chicken soup, mutton soup, &c., &c., as her appearance indicates the necessity of more nourishing diet.

12th. Patient sitting up; says she feels first-rate; bowels regular; considerable appetite.

13th. Took some cold yesterday. I find it impossible to impress them with the importance of taking necessary care, both in nursing and diet. Two weeks after her confinement, contrary to my positive orders, they moved her two miles, the consequence was she contracted a severe Bronchitis, from which she has not yet fully recovered. Her convalescence was as favorable as most ordinary cases of confinement, and I think her health would have been permanently established, but for the indiscretion of ignorant attendants.

Case of Lodgment of Foreign Body in the Appendix Vermiformis.—Reported by Dr. JACOB PRICE.

On the 16th of May, 1855, T. L. aet. 40, a shoemaker called to consult me in reference to a pain and soreness in the right iliac region, that had troubled him for several days.—There was slight constitutional disturbance. A careful examination of his case induced me to conclude that his trouble arose from his change of occupation. For two or three weeks he had been engaged at heavy work, lifting stone, tilting carts, &c. Rest and moderately active local and general antiphlogistic treatment gave only partial relief. 20th of May—was called to see him at 5, A. M. Since 11 o'clock last evening, he has had frequent vomiting and watery discharges from the bowels. I found him very much prostrated, the surface cold, pulse small and frequent, the soreness at the lower part of the abdomen nearly gone, slight *tympanites* but no *distension*, tongue rather dry, great thirst, but every thing is vomited almost as soon as swallowed, constant singultus. The vomited matter consisted principally of water (of which he had drank freely through the night,) with dark brown flocculi through it. The discharges from the bowels were thin and light colored, very like muddy water; there was the proper foccal odor.—

Frictions and stimulants to the surface were freely and perseveringly used. Small and irequently repeated doses of Ol. Tereb, Plumb. Acet., Opium, Camph. and chicken water and brandy and water, in small quantities were administered with apparent good effect. The vomiting and diarrhœa pretty much ceased. The singultus recurred occasionally, but was not painful. At 8, P. M., I left him for the night; he was then altogether improved. The surface warm, pulse 90—perfectly regular, abdom. soft and almost entirely free from tenderness. 21st, called at 3 A. M., he had slept well, waking but once or twice for a few minutes from 9 o'clock until 2. At 2 he awoke, said to his wife he felt well, soon after asked for a drink; she gave him a tumbler of water (in violation of my directions) which he drank, and within a few minutes two more. The most obstinate vomiting and retching set in a few minutes after. At half past three o'clock I found him in an apparently hopeless condition. The surface was cold and covered with a clammy sweat, pulse very frequent and feeble, distressing singultus, almost incessant retching and vomiting of mucus tinged with blood, abdomen perfectly rigid and exquisitely tender, evidently severe peritonitis. The symptoms continued to increase in severity. At 6 A. M., Dr. Thomas saw him,

but our united efforts failed to afford any relief. He died at 10, A. M.

Antopsy—22 hours after death.—The peritoneum was everywhere intensely injected. The omentum and folds of the intestines were slightly pasted together, but no adhesions of any firmness. Oj. of clear straw colored serum was found in the abdomen.

About the caput-coli there were old and firm adhesions.—The appendix vermiformis and the ileum—two inches from the colon were adherent, very much thickened and firmly bound down to the posterior wall of the pelvis at the right sacro-iliac symphysis. About ¾ of an inch from the free extremity of the appendage, there was softening and evidently an opening through the peritoneal covering. In the canal of the appendix immediately above the place of softening, we found a hard body resembling very closely a human bicuspate tooth. Subsequent examination satisfied all who had the opportunity of examining it, that it was really a grain of oats, so incrusted with calcareous matter as to give it the shape and appearance of a tooth. The mucus membrane of the stomach and bowels presented no evidence of disease. The case furnishes another example of the danger that many result from swallowing hard, indigestible substances.

On the efficiency of Prussiate of Iron in Intermittent Fever.—By C. W. Parish, M. D. *—Having frequently failed to afford the relief which I wished to do in cases of intermittent fever by the most energetic and varied application of the common remedies, I determined on giving a trial to the Prussiate of Iron, which has lately come into vogue on the continent of Europe. Not that I am very readily taken with every report of success from the use of new medicines; but it did appear to me that I had treated cases, the indications of cure in which might have been, perhaps, better and more promptly fulfilled by this remedial agent than by those which I had made use of.

Accordingly a case occurring to me of that precise character, in which I thought the prussian blue would prove useful, I resorted to it. This was the case of a young lady who had been my patient two years before, during a severe and very prostrated illness from Typhus fever, and who from the time of

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* The above paper was read before the Chester County Medical Society, March 3d, 1830. The interest and importance of the facts detailed, form a sufficient excuse for its publication at this late day.—Eds.

her convalescence had resided in a situation where autumnal fevers prevailed extensively, and had suffered from repeated attacks of intermittent fever with slight anasarca, induration of the spleen, and suppression of the catamenia. The anasarca and affection of the spleen were removed by appropriate agents, but the amenorrhœa continued with continual recurrence of the ague. At this stage of affairs she presented a leucophlegmatic appearance, with a soft and languid pulse and the usual symptoms of obstructed menses, unaccompanied by a plethoric condition of the general system. I gave her the Prussiate of Iron in the dose of one grain with a small portion of powdered mustard every four hours during the intermission. The medicine excited a good deal of nausea, which I attributed to the mustard, and diminished its quantity with an abatement of the sickness, followed in a few days by a suspension of the paroxysms of fever and on a continuance of the same medication a renewal of the catamenial discharge. This lady has ever since (a period of eight months) remained in the enjoyment of good health.

During the early part of last fall, I was called to pay some attention to the child of a lady from Philadelphia, and during a conversation with the mother, a very intelligent and interesting female, I learned that she was a sufferer from repeated attacks of intermittent for which she had ceased to do anything, having exhausted the whole routine of prophylactics in vain, except an occasional dose of calomel or blue pill for the relief of dyspeptic and bilious symptoms. By the advice of her medical attendant in Philadelphia, she had weaned her child early. She presented symptoms of hysteria and irregularity of the catamenial secretion. There was great irritability of stomach and loss of appetite. I gave her my views of the Prussiate of Iron as a remedy likely to be of service in her case, and glad to avail herself of something that bore the epithet "new," she consented to take it. I prepared her 20 pills composed of grsj of the Pruss. Iron with Ginger and mucilage, and directed her to commence with half a pill at a time, until she ascertained that her stomach would bear a whole one.—After two days the chills did not recur. She returned to the city in good spirits, and I have since heard that her health has been restored.

I am well aware that "one swallow will not make a summer," and that one or two instances of recovery are not sufficient to decide the character of any remedial agent. I bring forward these two cases simply to call attention to the remedy and to elicit observation and facts from the members of the Society,

who may be in possession of any other subject. It is only from a large aggregate of facts and experience that correct conclusions can be drawn as to the average good or bad effects of any article of the mat. med. and it is therefore the duty of medical men to record and communicate for mutual information the result of their individual experience. It will be understood that my views of this remedy limited its application to those cases in which there existed no hepatic obstruction or induration of the spleen, and I should imagine that it would be best suited to those cases which (like those related above) are complicated with disturbance of the uterine functions.—But this is conjecture! I sat down to write facts—I aim at nothing higher in these remarks. "It is true," as the writer of a Biographical notice of Dr. Redman remarks, "that the talent for correct and highly useful observation is a rare one among Physicians, but every physican has it in his power to augment the mass of *medical facts*, and thereby to extend the certainty and usefulness of the most important of all the sciences."

EDITORIAL.

Introductory Lecture to the Clinical Course of the Philadelphia Hospital, for the Winter of 1855-6, *by* Dr. Robert K. Smith.

We have been much gratified with the perusal of this appropriate address. It is marked by good sense, and well adapted to the object for which it was intended. Dr. Smith is the Chief Resident Physician and President of the Medical Board of the Philadelphia Hospital, Blockley—a position to which he has recently been appointed, and in which his zeal in the cultivation of Medical Science, will enable him to enlarge the sphere of his usefulness.

Circular of the State Society.—Dr. Thomas H. Yardley, Corresponding Secretary of the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania, has, in obedience to the instructions of the Society, addressed a circular to the prominent physicians in those portions of the State in which no County Medical Societies exist, urging upon them the importance of organizing such societies without delay. We earnestly hope this appeal

to the profession in the State will not be disregarded. The neglect of the physicians in some sections of the State to organize themseives into county societies, and secure a representation in the State and National Associations, has long been a matter of surprise. How any man who feels a proper degree of interest in his profession, can allow himself to stand aloof from this organization, we cannot comprehend. It is one of the most important movements which our profession has made to elevate its standing and usefulness; and to neglect or refuse to contribute to its success, exhibits an inexcusable state of indifference to its welfare. We trust this circular will reach every intelligent practitioner in the State who remains unconnected with this organization, and before another meeting of the Association, we shall find his name enrolled on the books of some flourishing county society. A copy of the circular, with such information as may be desired to form a society, may be obtained by addressing T. H. Yardley, M. D., No. 381 Arch Street, Philadelphia.

Scenes in the Practice of a New York Surgeon, by EDWARD H. DIXON, M. D., *Editor of the Scalpel: New York: De Witt and Davenport. pp.* 407.

It is seldom we have read a book with more interest than these sketches by Dr. Dixon. He is certainly a graphic and interesting writer; and the scenes he depicts are well chosen to please the common, as well as the prcfessional reader. We commend it to those who are fond of the perusal of stirring and varied topics; and while we feel assured they will find much to interest and amuse them, they will receive many suggestions, which if properly appreciated may prove beneficial to humanity.

The work may be obtained at Geo. F. Worrall's Book Store, Gay Street, West Chester.

Bronchitis—Chronic.—The use of hydrochlorate of ammonia, in doses of 15 to 20 grs., is highly spoken of by Dr. Delvaux, as a remedial agent in bronchitis.—*Boston Med. and Surg. Journal.*

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE.

Physicians.—The editor of the American Medical Gazette estimates that one physician is required for every 700 inhab itants. This would give over 30,000 in the nation. It is probable that the average life of a physician is not over 30 years, after he enters his profession. Hence it follows by computation, that the waste by death alone, is one thousand physicians a year. But more are lost by change of business than by death; and this loss might be estimated, without exaggeration, at 300. We have then, an actual loss of 1,300 physicians annually, which must be made up. Again, the increase of population in the United States, is about 700,000 a year, which it requires an increase of 1,000 physicians to supply. There are, therefore, actually required *twenty-three hundred* new physicians in the United States, yearly. To meet this, we have only 1,400 graduates from the schools, and about 300 foreigners, making in all, 1,700, and leaving an actual deficiency of 600 a year, to be supplied by irregular practitioners.—*Boston Med. and Surg. Journal.*

Cancer cured by Chloride of Zinc.—T. F. Peyton, M. D., in the Memphis Medical Recorder, for September, 1855, reports three cases of cancer cured by the external application of the Chloride of Zinc. He forms a paste, by mixing Chloride, Zinc and flour, equal parts, with water. This paste is applied on adhesive plaster to the cancer, and removed in four or five hours, when the sore may be dressed with simple ointment or a poultice.

Arrest of Whitlow.—One of the most certain and least painful means, is the repeated application of tincture of iodine, until the skin is deadened and forms a hard case round the finger. The constant application from the beginning of mercurial onitment, is another effectual method. A blister, hot and scalding ley, and many other discutient applications, are sometimes successful. Collodion, or other means of excluding the contact of air, is useful also; but it is stated in a foreign journal that whitlow can be arrested in six hours, by covering the affected part with compresses kept moistened by chloroform.—*Memphis Medical Recorder.*

Treatment of Cancer.—Landolfi, a Neapolitan physician, has succeeded in curing cancers, or cancroid tumors, by cauterizations principally with the chloride of bromine. The healthy parts surrounding the disease, are covered with plasters spread with an ointment composed of eight parts of chloroform and thirty of lard, with a view to lessen the pain.—The diseased portion is then covered with a plaster of chloride of bromine and basilicon, in the proportion of one to eight. The pain and heat are often intense, continuing five or six hours, or longer. At the expiration of twenty-four hours the caustic is removed, and a line of demarkation is found separating the diseased from the sound parts. Poultices are then applied until a complete separation takes place, in five to eight, and sometimes as late as the fifteenth day; when an ulcer of a benign character exists which cicatrises under the usual treatment. The chlorides of zinc and gold are sometimes used in combination with the bromine, the former as a hemostatic, and the latter as supposed to exercise a specific action over encephaloid disease; and the following formulæ are given: R. chlorides of bromine, zinc, gold, and antimony, equal parts; mix and add powdered liquorice to make a paste; R. chloride of bromine, three parts; of zinc, two parts; of gold and antimony, each one part; mix and add powdered liquorice as above. The chlorine vapor evolved makes it necessary to prepare these formulæ in the open air. Whether any of the cases treated were genuine cancer, may be doubtful; but obstinate and malignant tumors, resisting the usual surgical treatment, have been cured by these powerful cauterizations, which have the effect to destroy the vitality of the diseased portion when it is subsequently thrown off by the natural process of ulceration. Other caustics than the chloride of bromine, are capable of producing these effects, and probably all others, in proportion to their caustic power. The intensity of the pain, which constitutes the principal objection to this treatment, might be mitigated by the chloroform vapor douche.—*Memphis Medical Recorder.*

Prescription for Porrigo.—This obstinate affection, often met with on the scalp in children, is attacked in Guy's Hospital with a prescription styled *Unguentum Metallorum,* and prepared by mixing equal parts of zinc ointment, of the dilute nitrate of mercury, and of the cerate of acetate of lead. It has been very efficacious in porrigo, impetigo, and even in favus.—*Virginia Med. and Surg. Journal.*

Tincture of Iodine with Chloroform in Inhalation.—In the Bulletin de Therapeutique of Paris, M. Titon calls attention to the perfect *solubility and volatility* of iodine in chloroform. He says chloroform dissolves iodine even to complete saturation in the proportion of 20 to 100. Ten minutes after an inhalation of five minutes, the iodine was detected in the saliva and in fifteen minutes in the urine. It may be breathed from a phial held to one of the nostrils for two, four, or ten minutes.

This is certainly a new and most efficient mode of administering iodine, decidedly one of the most valuable agents of our *materia medica.*—*Nashville Journal of Med. and Surgery.*

On Colchicum in Neuralgia.—In the out-patients' room at St. Thomas' Hospital, Dr. Peacock has recently had frequent occasion to remark upon the examples of neuralgia occurring seemingly in connection with the rheumatic diathesis. In these the treatment by anti-periodics has always failed, and it has been requisite to employ either colchicum or iodide of potassium. In several quinine had been largely tried prior to admission, and without success, while the rapidity with which benefit ensued when the change in remedy was made, appeared to show conclusively the real nature of the disease. It is important to bear in mind, in the management of these so called nervous diseases, that their true pathology may often be humoral, and that a resort to eliminants is almost as frequently necessary as to nervine tonics and antiperiodics. An introductory treatment by purgatives, diuretics, or the specifics against gout and rheumatism, will, in fact, in the generality of cases, secure a much better action for the quinine afterwards. The employment, in the first place, of one or the other of these, is, indeed, a matter almost of routine with many practical physicians.—*Braithwaite's Retrospect.*

Muriate of Morphia and Coffee in Neuralgia.—M. Boileau reports that he has derived great relief in the paroxysms of neuralgia from the administration of muriate of morphia in a very hot infusion of highly roasted coffee. The dose is one centigramme (one-seventh grain) for an adult, and less in other ages or in peculiar temperments. This may be repeated when a violent paroxysm recurs, and if necessary it may be increased by frictions; but M. Boileau has never gone beyond two centigrammes.—*Med. Times and Gazette.*

New method of obtaining Alcohol.—M. Bertholot has succeeded in obtaining Alcohol by the distillation of Bicarburetted hydrogen mixed with sulphuric acid and metalic mercury.—This discovery is reported at length in the *Chemical Gazette*, for Feb. 15th.

Treatment of Dysentery with Creasote.—The sedative influence of creasote has been appealed to by Dr. Wilmot, in the treatment of dysentery, with good results. He recommends this remedy in an enema of one drachm to twelve ounces of starch, and, if we are to rely on his statements, there is something valuable in his suggestions.—*North Western Med. and Surg. Journal.*

Vomiting During Pregnancy.—The tincture of nux vomica, in doses of four drops every two hours, is recommended on the very highest authority as an efficient remedy in the distressing and often obstinate vomiting which sometimes occurs in the earlier months of pregnancy. It is worthy of trial.—*St. Louis Med. Journal.*

Treatment of Piles.—The following is the formula of an ointment often found useful as an application to piles, when not of very large size. It is copied from the Pharmacopia of Guy's Hospital:

℞. Gallarum contris. ʒiij.; opii. (emolliti aquæ cum. ʒj.) ʒss.; lig. plumbi diacet. ʒij.; adipis ℥j. misce, ft. ung.

We have here combined the astringent properties of lead and of galls with the sedative and anodyne ones of opium.—Of course, in having resort to local measures, the general ones which address themselves to the cause of the disease should never be neglected. On the use of mercurials and castor-oil as the radical treatment of hemorrhoids, we had occasion to comment a few weeks ago. There is no doubt, however, that the sufferings of the patient may be materially mitigated by topical applications. If the piles be large, ulcerated, and very painful, the free application of nitric acid will be the best; if a more chronic condition, the above ointment may be ordered or lunar caustic freely smeared over the parts. A good formula for an astringent ointment is valuable, even if the other means be in a general way preferred, since, in private practice, cases are not unfrequently met with in which the surgeon must prescribe without being permitted to inspect the part.—*Medical Times and Gazette.*

Chloroform in Midwifery.

Prof. E. W. Murphy, in a recent work reviewed by Dr. Churchill, in the April number of the Brit. & For. Med. Chir. Rev., from which the following quotation is taken, advances the subjoined Rules for the administration of Chloroform in child-birth :—

Rule 1. Let the Chloroform be pure. If rubbed on the hands, the smell should be fragrant, not pungent, like sulphuric ether. If inspired from the inhaler, there is a sense of warmth in the mouth, a fruity flavor, no pungency; if the strength of the vapor be sufficient, it will excite a slight cough; but if impure, the cough is irritating. Let the sponge of the inhaler be placed in warm water, and then rung perfectly dry. About thirty minims may be poured upon it, which is sufficient in the first instance.

2. When labor has commenced do not interfere so long as the patient bears her pains well; if she be not teased with short, very severe, and inefficient pains, chloroform need not be given. If, on the contrary, the severity of the first stage be such, the anguish of the patient so great that pain is evidently a cause of protraction, chloroform may be given with great benefit.

3. Always commence with a small dose, about thirty minims; if it agree with the patient no inconvenience is caused, but she will generally complain that it is doing her no good; the quantity may then be increased, until on inhalation the exhibitor finds that she cannot take a full inspiration without cough.

4. In the second stage of labor, chloroform may be given when the head is approaching the perineum, or before then if the pains become intolerable. This may be known not merely by their greater intensity while the uterus is in action, but also by the restlessness of the patient in the intervals. She is watchful, dispirited, still crying, but in a more subdued tone, from pain and a feeling of soreness.

5. When the head arrives at the perineum, chloroform may be given in a fuller dose. if it have not already accumulated. The perineum yields more easily under its influence, and the severity of the pains is controlled without any loss of force. This rule applies especially to cases in which powerful forcing pains are acting against the perineum at the hazard of its laceration.

6. When operations are necessary, if they are not severe —as, for instance, some forceps operations—chloroform may

be given in the same manner as in natural labor, but always after the instrument is applied. If severe, it may be given as in surgical operations, but not to the same extent. Hence an assistant is necessary who is conversant with the properties of this anæsthetic. It is obvious that the same person cannot operate and give simultaneously the full soporific dose of this agent.

7. The inhaler should be applied to the mouth just before the pain commences, two or three full inspirations taken, and the moment the action of the uterus ceases it should be withdrawn. The inhaler should never be applied in the interval between the pains, and if used in the middle of a pain the cries of the patient blow away the vapor and no relief is given.

8. When inhalation has been continued in this interrupted manner for some time, if any alteration be observed in the countenance, or manner of the patient—if the face is flushed, or bloated, or tinged with a slight lividity—if she ramble or become hysterical, let the inhaler be withdrawn, and the face of the patient fanned. Wait until the pains return to their original severity before renewing the inhalation, when it is probable that these symptoms will not return.

9. In some instances, the patient is very intolerant of her pains; and if given chloroform to relieve them, she becomes hysterical, crying, perhaps louder than before it was inhaled. In these cases it is better to induce sopor, which may easily be done, without stertor. For this purpose, a sponge and folded handkerchief applied to the nostrils is preferable to the inhaler. Whenever sopor is brought on, the closest attention should be given to the countenance—observe the irritability of the eyelids; to the respiration—notice its frequency, and especially stertor; to the pulse—mark its strength. The handkerchief should always be held at a distance at first, and be gradually brought nearer, but the sponge should never be applied quite close to the nostrils.

10. There should be the freest circulation of air in the apartment; and if, after delivery, there should be any feeling of faintness or nausea, ammonia in effervesence will relieve it.—*New Orleans Med. and Sur. Journal.*

Editorial Remarks.—We have been averse to the use of chloroform for anæsthetic purposes. Whether more dangerous than ether, *per se*, or not, is of no consequence to the question; certain it is that from its greater strength accidents are more likely to occur. Its only advantages are its more agree-

able odor, and rather questionable one of its more rapid action. Having once witnessed a fatal result from its incautious use in a public institution, we have never been disposed to regard it in so favorable a light, for anæsthetic purposes as the ether. Its popularity has been wafted to us from across the ocean, where it undoubtedly originated in a jealousy of our discovery of the effects of ether. Although excellently adapted for certain modes of *external* application, we must counsel our readers to, at least, err upon the safe side, and always make use of pure concentrated sulphuric ether for such purposes.—*New Hampshire Jour. of Medicine.*

Treatment of Carbuncle—General Treatment.

Three or four different plans of treatment are in vogue in the Hospitals for the treatment of carbuncle. 1st. By stimulants, full diet, quinine, ammonia, etc. 2d. By opium, freely used, and generally combined with tonics. 3d. A more expectant plan, by salines, low diet, etc., in the first stage, and the moderate use of tonics afterwards. In all these, purgatives, of course, form a part. One of the largest carbuncles which we have ever seen, occurred to a tailor, from Hampton Court, who was treated by Mr. De Morgan, in the Middlesex Hospital, about two years ago. The case was an extremely severe one, the depression of the vital powers being such that, for more than a fortnight the result seemed very doubtful. The very free use of opium, in combination with liquor cinchona, appeared to answer an excellent end, and the man ultimately recovered. We have not, however, seen the opiate plan tried on a sufficiently large scale to justify an opinion as to its general merits, the method by stimulants being by far the most frequently adopted. Mr. Lloyd, at St. Bartholomew's is the surgeon who is, perhaps, the most sparing of any in the use of stimulating remedies; and we certainly have not observed that his cases do any worse than those of the others. In the early stages, Mr. Lloyd generally prescribes saline and fever diet; unless, indeed, the patient be very old or infirm. In one case under his care, after the sloughs were separating, several attempts were made to give stimulants, but on each occasion a fresh accession of inflammation being caused, they were at length desisted from, and the man recovered satisfactorily without. In carbuncle, as in all diseases, the surgeon should, doubtless, pay less regard to the name and reputed pathology of the affection than to the symptoms actually present. If the system be much de-

pressed, if the disease appear to have resulted from bad living, and, above all, if the patient's instincts demand them, stimulants should be pushed. If there be extreme restlessness, pain exhaustion, etc., and if, after a few doses, it appears to agree with the stomach, the sustaining properties of opium may probably be very valuable. Should, however, the patient be of fair strength, the disease in its stage of advance, and attended by sharp inflammatory fever, it may be doubted whether any empirical evidence as to the usefulness of stimuli under such circumstances has yet been obtained sufficiently strong to lead the surgeon to ignore the rational principles of treatment. In such a condition, the arrest of the disease would probably be much sooner effected by alteratives, purgatives, and salines, than by brandy or opium. It is even not improbable that the bleeding caused by incision is often of great advantage.

Local Treatment.—From the time of Wiseman, the practice has been generally of making free crucial incisions into all carbuncles. It has not, however, been absolutely universal. A few surgeons, among whom may be mentioned John Pearson in our country, Von Walter in Germany, and Perrez in France, have been sceptical as to its efficacy. There are also in the present day some surgeons who do not recommend it. Chelius, on the contrary, who appears to have paid some attention to this question, records thus, in strong terms, his conclusion:—"That cutting into the carbuncle is generally neither useful nor necessary, is the most dangerous statement that can be put forth respecting its treatment." Respecting this point, two propositions may we think, be maintained: 1st. Carbuncles will very frequently get well without having been incised. 2d. The practice of incision, however free, does not by any means universally arrest the carbuncular inflammation. In proof of the former, the fact, that of the cases in our list, eight were not treated by incisions, is conclusive. In these, for the most part, the patients came under the care when the disease was evidently arrested, and when free openings had spontaneously formed; so that there was no object for resort to the knife. Many others besides these have been under our observation, and, as a general rule, it may be asserted that the destruction of tissues is far less extensive when the incision has been avoided, than when practised. The assertion, that incisions, even of the freest kind, do not always arrest carbuncular inflammation will scarcely be held to need proof by any one who has seen much of the disease. If the proof be required, however, we may refer to the fact, that in five out of

the twenty-seven cases in which incisions were practiced, their repetition was subsequently necessary. Yet, granting the occasional spontaneous curability of carbuncle, and the occasional failure of treatment by incisions, the case still stands very triumphantly in favor of the latter. The only drawbacks to their use are the amount of sloughing and the large scar; but to set against these we have the complete relief of pain in almost every case, and the fact that of twenty-seven cases on our list, in no fewer than seventeen the inflammation never spread after the first incision. This latter fact is one of great importance, for it cannot for a moment be held that so large a number the cessation of the diseased action was simultaneous with the incision treatment by accident. The relation between the two must, we think, be held proven; and the fact becomes more telling when we add to it, that of the six exceptions in which the disease spread, in none did the spreading continue more than five days, and in none were more than three incisions needed. Now, it happens that a large majority of carbuncles occur in positions in which the avoidance of scar is a matter of no moment; and in those where it is important—the face for example—the disease is so dangerous to life, that in its treatment, consideration of personal beauty cannot be allowed much weight.—*New Hampshire Jouanal of Medicine.*

Nux Vomica as an Aperient.—Among the conditions over which nux vomica, and its active principle, strychnia, possess most useful powers, is that of habitual constipation, from muscular atony of the intestinal tube. At the City Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, we observe that Dr. Peacock and Dr. Andrew Clark are both in the habit of frequently resorting to it for this purpose. It is generally given in combination with the compound rhubarb pill, and in doses of the extract of from a sixth to half a grain. Of itself it can, perhaps, scarcely be deemed an aperient—that is, it does not so much excite peristalic action, as supply tone to the weakened muscular coat, by which it is enabled to respond efficiently to other irritants.—Hence the reason for combination with rhubarb, aloes, or some similar drug. Dr. Peacock mentioned to us a case under his care in St. Thomas's Hospital, in which a man of feeble intellect, and torpid nervous system generally, had derived great benefit from its employment. At first, the bowels were obsticostive, and lavements produced no action; but since the use of the nux vomica (twice daily, gr. ss.) they have so far increas-

ed in power and susceptibility, that simple injections are quite sufficient, and procure all the action that is necessary.—*Medical Times and Gazette*, Nov. 10, 1855.

Homœopathy, and the Cholera at Marseilles.—Marseilles possesses, it would appear, a very considerable number of homœopathic physicians; to believe them, they would cure all their patients, and it was only in consequence of a kind of blind infatuation that their allopathic brethren refused to adopt their mode of treatment. The authorities, little satisfied with the result of ordinary medicine, wished to know the truth of the matter. They set the homœopaths to work, and the following letter, addressed to Dr. Bouquet to the *Gazette des Hopitaux*, proves once more how easy it is to be deceived as to the efficacy of remedies, until carefully instituted experiments interpose to distinguish the efforts of Nature from the action of medicines:—

"Homœopathy has just experienced a severe check in our town.

"You have perhaps heard of the noise it made last year with its pretended success in cholera. Dr. Chargé asserted that he had not lost one out of several hundred patients, and he published this statement in the political journals of Lyons and Bordeaux.

"When, during the present year, the scourge visited us anew, the authorities bestirred themselves, and thinking it was their duty to bring the truth to light, entrusted one of the wards of the Hôtel Dieu to Dr. Chargé. There, assisted by his colleagues in homœopathy, by pharmaciens, and by some young people his adepts, who devoted themselves to tending the patients (for he had found the ordinary staff insufficient and incompetent), he obtained the result which might easily have been anticipated; the broad daylight did not display success.

"Of 26 cholera patients admitted into this ward, 21 died, and M. Chargé withdrew.

"To render the experiment conclusive, a ward had been set apart, in which the patients were treated by rational means, which did not profess to work wonders.

"During the same period, of 25 patients but 11 died.

"Each ward had its turn of reception.

"I think that these facts are sufficiently decisive to render a renewal of such experiments needless, for if science profits by them, which is doubtful, humanity suffers not a little."—*Journ. de Med. et de Chirurg. Prat.*, Oct. 1855.

Opium in the Treatment of Chronic Ulcers, by Mr. SKEY.

Opium produces a certain effect on the chronic and callous ulcer; If it answers here, it will in other diseases, having the special character of the chronic ulcer. The pharmacologists tell us it is a stimulant and sedative! What do you understand by the stimulating properties of opium? I should be at a loss to call to mind any cases in which it is given as a stimulant, unless in such as these. In nineteen out of twenty instances it is employed as a sedative, as, for example, in relaxed bowels, and to promote sleep. I can show you it possesses other properties quite equal to these; it prevents sleep sometimes; when taken continually it tranquilizes, but it will not always produce sleep. What is the action of opium to which I allude? Whether it acts on the centre or periphery, whether on the heart or capilliaries, I do not know. But this I do know, that it promotes a healthy action on the capilliaries of the body, and in cases of chronic ulcer, which I select as an example, you will have a local action set up, which will heal a wound—will set up a healthy granulating surface, and completely heal it up in a short time, when every other method has failed to do so. What is the condition and character of a chronic ulcer? A chronic ulcer is an excavation, for the most part, affecting the limbs of old people, generally the inner side of the lower limbs; two processes are going on, the formation of a ring of organized lymph which encircles the excavation, thus hollowing it to a considerable depth, and its surface is covered with unhealthy lymph. This is common to all of them; the elevation of the margins is not a specific manifestation, as it is common to other forms of ulcer. Under the microscope there is a granulation to be seen, there is an ichorous discharge, with an offensive fœtor arising from it, and yet there is no sensibility, no annoyance or suffering to the patient; it goes on for year after year without any change; you may strap it, there is no change produced. I give opium, what does it do? It seems to start the capillary system all over the body, particularly in the lower extremities; it produces a genial glow, which may be compared to that of a cold bath, but not from such as is ordinarily taken; go into a warm bath with a meal in the stomach, with or without perspiration, it makes no difference; well, then, the glow is produced by the opium, and healthy granulations over the whole surface of the ulcer will become apparent in a week. What is the sum of the actions of opium? You will say it is unhealthy. It is not; it promotes warmth, the pouring out of healthy secretions, it produces healthy integument, healthy granulations, it absorbs

the unsound around it, and, while the grandulations are coming up the elevations are going down. That cannot be unhealthy which promotes health.—*Med. Press.*

Climate of St. Augustine, Florida.—We have received a circular published semi-annually by Dr. Mauran, of St. Augustine, Meteorologist to the Smithsonian Institute for the State of Florida, containing statistical tables of the range of the thermometer, the prevailing winds and the state of the weather for a period included between January 13th and July 1st, 1855, and conveying a highly favorable impression of the mildness of that climate during the winter months, and its adaptation to invalides suffering from pulmonary complaints. The observations were taken daily, at 8 A. M., 2 P. M., and 10 P. M. The lowest temperature in January was 30 degrees (on the morning of the 27th), the highest 76 degrees (on the afternoon of the 21st). In February, the thermometer ranged, at 8 A. M., between 30 and 62; at 2 P. M., between 45 and 76; at 10 P. M., between 39 and 70. In March, the range, at 8 A. M., was from 37 to 71: at 2 P. M., 45 to 85; at 10 P. M., from 39 to 80. The prevailing winds are from the eastern quarter, the temperature of the air being raised by the Gulf Stream, which sweeps along the coast but a few miles from the city. The highest temperature during the six months was on May 23d, when the thermometer stood in the afternoon at 98 deg. The hottest weather in June, was on the 21st and 23, when the mercury was at 86 deg. We publish these facts for the benefit of those who are compelled to resort to a more genial climate than their own during the winter and spring months, believing that they will find the city of St. Augustine comfortable and agreeable place of residence.

Epilepsy.—Trousseau considers that he has permanently cured twenty epileptics, in one hundred and fifty cases, treated with belladonna. His mode of giving the remedy, as described in his clinical lectures at Hotel Dieu, is to make the pills of the extract and the powdered root of belladonna, aa one-seventh grain. A pill to be taken every night for the first month, two pills during the second month, three on the third month, and four during the forth month. If at the end of twelve months the register shows a diminution of the seizure, the remedy may be persisted in with great hopes of a perfect recovery in from two to four years. The dose should not be increased after the physiological action of the remedy is manifested.—*New Hampshire Journal of Medicine.*

Small Pox.

A committee of the Chester County Medical Socie'y, upon Small Pox, reported—April, 1850, the following facts in relation to this disease :

Thirteen cases of Small Pox and seventeen of varioloid, were reported to the committee. Of the 13 cases of small pox, 6 occurred in unprotected persons, 6 in those who had been vaccinated, and one in a man aged 50 years, who was inoculated with small pox in early life, and who, according to his own statement, took the disease several years after. This is reported as a very severe case of the confluent form of the disease. With one other exception the cases were all of the distinct form and mild.

Of the seventeen cases of varioloid, eight occurred in persons who had been vaccinated while young, of the other nine no account is given.

In all the families in which the disease in either of its forms appeared, the unprotected persons were vaccinated, and all escaped the infection.

Leibig's New Broth for the Sick.—Take a half pound of the flesh of a recently killed animal, (beef or the flesh of a fowl,) and chop it fine and mix it well with a pound and eighth of distilled water, to which four drops of muriatic acid is added, with from half drachm to one drachm of muriate soda, (common salt.) After it has stood an hour the whole is thrown on a common hair sieve and the fluid is allowed to run off without pressure. The first that runs off is turbid and must be thrown back from time to time until it runs off clear. On to the fleshy residue in the sieve a half pound of distilled water is added in small portions. In this way a pound of fluid extract of meat is obtained of a red color and an agreeable taste of broth. The sick can take a cup full at pleasure. It will not bear heat.—*London Lancet.*

Aconite in Ephidrosis.—M. Imbert-Gourbeyne relates an interesting case of idiopathic general sweating, which, after continuing a long period, was immediately relieved by a few spoonfuls of syrup of aconite, which he gave from recollection of the great benefit Dupont stated he had derived from this drug in a similar case. In another instance, he found the same remedy efficient in the sweating of phthisis, when given for a coincident neuralgia.—*Gaz. Med. de Paris.*

Formula for the Treatment of Gonorrhœa.

We copy from the *Union Medicile* of Aug. 28th, the following formula of an electuary employed for many years by M. Beyran, in the treatment of gonorrhœa:—Take of copaiva, ℥ iss.; calcined magnesia, ʒi.; alum (levigated,) gr. xv.; catechu (levigated), ʒ iss.; cubebs, ʒ ix.; opium, gr. xv.; essence peppermint, do. canella, aa gtt. xl. M. Make an electuary.

M. Beyran administers this electuary in sub-acute gonorrhæa at the commencement of the discharge, and before the inflammation has extended throughout the urethra. Gleet, when unaccompanied by stricture, may also be treated by this preparation. The dose is a teaspoonful in the morning, another an hour before dinner, and a third at bed time. It is best taken by wrapping it in a moistened *wafer*. When the discharge is arrested, the dose is to be gradually diminished until the medicine is stopped. The mode of administering bulky or nauseous powders, electuaries, &c., in wafers made of unleavened bread (*pain azime*, or *chante*,) which is so commonly employed by the French, deserves to be more known among us. The medicine being wrapped in the moistened wafer, can be easily swallowed, like an oyster, without the patient perceiving the taste. We have found this method very convenient where large doses of cubebs are to be taken. The wafers may be had of some of our principal apothecaries.

Tincture of Iodine in Bubo.—M. Joliclerc states as the result of much observation, that tincture of iodine is the best application in bubo, preventing or dissipating fluctuation, and facilitating healing if the bubo be already open. He applies it by gentle friction, so as to avoid vesication.—*Gaz. des Hop.*, No. 17.

BIOGRAPHICAL DEPARTMENT.

Biographical Sketch of Dr. Wm. E. Haines, *Reported to the Delaware County Medical Society, by* C. J. Morton, M. D., *of Chester Pa.*

Dr. William E. Haines, the subject of the following brief memoir, was descended of a respectable family. He was the son of Jacob and Rachel Haines, and was born at Westtown, Chester county, Pa., on the 30th of October, 1816. In his childhood he early displayed the activity of mind and energy

of purpose which characterised his riper years, engaging in everything he undertook with zeal and efficiency.

He was first sent to school at Westtown Boarding School, and continued his attendance there until, the autumn of 1823, when his father removed to Muncy Valley, in Lycoming county. In 1831 he was again sent to Westtown School, where he remained for three years engaged in the study of mathematics and other branches of a sound English education, as well as the Greek and Latin languages.

By his manly rectitude, no less than by his industry and ready acquisition of knowledge, he won the respect and esteem of his teachers, while his natural animation joined to an innocent play of wit, rendered him an agreeable companion to his schoolmates, with some of whom he formed friendships which were as lasting as his life.

His close application acting upon a constitution naturally delicate, so far impaired his health that he was compelled to relinquish, for a time, the pursuits in which he was so much interested, and to return home, which he did in August, 1834. Soon afterwards, he determined upon the practice of medicine as the vocation of his life, and entered the office of Dr. Rankin, a respectable practitioner in the town of Muncy.—He devoted himself with new zeal to the studies which were to be so interwoven with the success of his future life; during the summer in the office of his preceptor, and in the winter by an attendance upon the lectures in the University of Pennsylvania.

Towards the close of the winter of 1837, his health again began to decline, but he was able to continue his attendance upon lectures and his assiduous reading till the close of the session, and to pass the examination for a degree with credit.

He was scarcely twenty-one years of age, when, after some search for a suitable field for practice, he settled upon Springfield, Delaware county, as the sphere where he should assume the onerous responsibility, and encounter the ill repaid toil, the struggles against prejudice and mistrust, and the anxious solicitude for success which too often attend the commencement of practice.

Previous to locating himself at Springfield, however, he visited and obtained the full approbation of Dr. Jos. Wilson, who was then in possession of an extensive and lucrative practice at that place, but in consequence of infirmity he was unable to attend to its arduous duties. Dr. Wilson always manifested the warmest friendship towards him, and the writer has

often heard him speak of him as a high-minded, honorable and intelligent physician, always confining himself strictly to the rules of medical etiquette.

Although almost immediately employed by many families in his neighborhood as they had occasion, he had, however, much leisure time, which was employed in adding to his stock of medical knowledge, as well as reading upon general subjects.

In the following winter he delivered a course of lectures upon chemistry, at the Springfield Library Rooms, which were listened to with interest by a numerous audience.

His manifest ability, clear judgment, and efficient action, soon won for him a confidence in the estimation of the public, which was heightened by the kindness, dignity and rectitude which characterised him; so that his practice continued rapidly to increase, until in the summer of 1840, when he was seized with a severe illness. This malady, the exact nature of which is not known, after confining him for some weeks to his bed, left him so enfeebled as to compel him to seek renovation and repose amid the bracing air of the mountains of Lycoming and the much loved society of his paternal home.—After some weeks thus spent he returned to his practice, which became sufficiently lucrative to justify him in the following spring in purchasing the premises immediately opposite the Springfield Meeting House, upon which he resided the remainder of his active life. In October, 1841, he married Mary, eldest daughter of Joseph Rhoads, a union which contributed greatly to the happiness of his after life. In his personal appearance at this time Dr. Haines was of medium height, his figure slender and hair light, his complexion fair, and his face, though not handsome, was rendered agreeable by an expression of intelligence, dignity and benevolence.

His manners partook less of artificial polish, than of a true politeness which arose from native kindness of heart and that just sense of self-respect, whereby he scorned not the humblest and rendered to the highest the deference due from an equal to excellence and worth. Though little disposed to converse freely in the presence of numbers, among his more intimate friends his manner was easy and affectionate, the pleasure of his conversation being heightened by a play of genial wit.

Toward his patients his conduct was most admirable. He was regarded by them as a friend and brother; for while his abilities, medical skill and mild dignity of deportment inspired them with respect, his kind sympathy won their grateful affection.

In the spring of 1842, an epidemic of typhoid fever prevailed in the circuit of his practice. While busily engaged in attending to others, his own family was attacked and finally himself, in consequence of which he was confined for several weeks to his house. After his recovery he wrote a short account of the epidemic, which was published in the American Journal of Medical Sciences.

Dr. Haines was a member of the religious society of "Friends," to whose doctrines he was strongly attached; regarding religion not as an abstract speculation, but as a practical law of life, affecting every action, regulating a man's whole being and requiring of him the practice of every virtue.

For a few years little of incident occurred in his life. With a prosperous business, enjoying the confidence and affection of the community among which he practiced in no common degree—experiencing the substantial satisfaction which extensive usefulness bestows, and blest with the highest domestic happiness—life seemed to offer him in the present its fullest bounty, while the future promised fulfilment of yet nobler aims, when he was suddenly arrested in his career. As he was returning one evening from his daily circuit early in January, 1846, his horse took fright, and starting aside threw him from his vehicle to the ground, causing a severe contusion of his forehead, but not producing unconsciousness, as he was able to catch his horse and drive home. On the following day there was ecchymosis around each orbit, from the severity of the concussion; but though suffering somewhat from his injuries, he visited his patients, and in a few days the results of the accident seemed to have disappeared.

He continued in his usual health until the 7th of February, when having been much exposed to the inclement weather of the season upon the previous day, he found himself seriously indisposed, yet attempted to visit a patient to whom he was called early in the morning. He was scarcely able to reach home, and though he at once resorted to active treatment, his disease rapidly progressed. His illness proved to be an attack of inflammatory rheumatism, affecting almost his whole body, and especially his heart, which had already suffered from organic disease. He had much pain throughout the body and frequent attacks of oppression; but after some days the severity of the disease began to decline and he appeared about to recover, when, upon the 19th, he was most unexpectedly seized with a sudden congestion of the brain, accompanied by convulsions and followed by complete paralysis of the left

half of the body. He remained very feeble for several days, but was a second time improving when another attack prostrated him. The recuperative energies of his system seemed however once more on the ascendant, so that by the end of three weeks he was able to set up, and even to ride out a few time. But at length a gradual decline of his often shattered forces ensued, he sank beneath the accumulated ravages of disease, and after great suffering, endured with christian patience and fortitude, expired on the 18th of Apirl, 1846—exchanging the sufferings and at best but chequered happiness of this world for the rest and felicity which is ever the reward of Christian Virtue.

Memoir of Isaac Pennington, M. D.

Dr. Pennington was born in September, 1789, in London Grove township, Chester county, Pa. At the age of twelve years he was placed at school in Philadelphia, where he remained five years; at the end of which time he commenced the study of medicine under the instruction of Dr. Roberts, of London Grove, with whom he remained one year. He then entered the University of Pennsylvania, in which he attended two courses of Lectures, including the clinic at the Penna. Hospital. His anxiety to enter upon the active duties of life, induced him to leave the University at the termination of his second course, and commence the practice of his profession, intending, at some future day, to return and obtain his degree. He located at Jersey Shore, Lycoming county, and soon became engaged in professional duties.

In 1812, he was married to Elizabeth, daughter of Judge Allen, of Monmouth county, New Jersey. In 1814 he received the appointment of Assistant Surgeon's mate, in the army, and immediately afterwards he was ordered to join the army on our northern frontier, then under the command of General Brown. At the battles of Bridgewater and Fort Erie, he was upon active duty. Soon after the battle of of Bridgewater his life was saved by General Scott, in a manner which reflects great honor on that veteran for the cool courage which so much distinguished him. The Doctor was walking with a friend, and being in close conversation, had gone some distance beyond the American lines. A party of British sharp-shooters perceiving the advantage, had gained a favorable point unseen, and with rifles leveled were on the point of "picking off" the two young officers. At this moment Gen. Scott, whose habit it was often to ride out alone

for the purpose of reconnoitering, and who was notorious in the army, at that day, for invulnerability, rode up and said to them in a calm and unconcerned manner:—"Gentlemen, jump down that bank or you will be shot." They instantly obeyed, the volley of balls whistled over their heads, and the General rode slowly away, though many a messenger of death was aimed at his tall and commanding figure.

The army was doubtless the school in which Dr. Pennington laid the foundation for that surgical knowledge, which in after life, constituted one of the leading features of his professional reputation; at least it contributed materially to develop that boldness of character and energy of purpose, which enabled him to execute the duties of his profession under some of the most difficult and trying circumstances.

He remained in the army until the close of the war, and on the 30th of September, 1816, resigned his commission and resumed the practice of his profession at Jersey Shore. On the death of his mother-in-law, he removed for a short time to New Jersey, then returned to Chester county, Pa., locating in Sadsbury township, where he remained about two years.—From Sadsbury he removed to Honeybrook, where he resided until 1832. During this time he devoted himself with great fidelity to the duties of his profession, and enjoyed an extensive and lucrative practice. Several capital operations were performed by him in that neighborhood.

In the year 1832, Dr. Pennington was induced to relinquish his profession and remove to Hampshire county, Virginia, where he engaged in the iron business. This proved to be an unfortunate move. After expending a large amount in the erection of a forge, mill, mansion house, and other buildings, he was obliged at the end of three years to give up the concern and resume the practice of his profession. With this view he removed to Moorefield, Hardy county, Virginia, where he continued until 1843. During his sojourn in this place, the Washington College of Baltimore, conferred upon him the degree of "*Doctor of Medicine.*" Under the arduous duties that rested upon him in this locality, his health began to give way, and a constitution heretofore capable of great endurance, became so enfeebled, as to compel him to seek another residence.

In Febuary, 1843, he removed to St. Clairsville, Bellmont county, Ohio, where he had many relatives. He remained here but a short time. In November of the same year, through a pressing invitation from his brother-in-law, Dr. Allen, of Oakland county, Michigan, he was induced to remove to that

place. In January, 1844, while visiting a patient, he experienced another threatening of Apoplexy, the first occurred at the age of sixteen. Prompt treatment instituted by himself afforded partial relief. After this attack his health remained feeble, and in April he returned to Honeybrook, Chester county, with the hope that the air of his native county, together with the scenes and associations of his youth, would to some extent, restore his declining health, and postpone the fatal issue of that disease, which he found was fast wasting his physical strength. He purchased a small property at Compassville, where he resided until his death.

His change of residence was not accompanied with any permanent improvement of his health. In the fall of 1848, he had a severe attack of Pneumonia, which left him still more feeble; and during the winter following, unmistakable symptoms of organic disease of the heart presented themselves.—On Tuesday, the 1st of May, 1849, whilst on his way to West Chester to attend the annual meeting of the Chester County Medical Society, (of which he was a valuable member,) he was attacked with apoplexy. He received prompt medical attendance, but the best efforts were unavailing. He died on the Sunday morning following. A post mortem examination disclosed in the left lobe of the cerebellum an ounce of coagulated blood, which was the *immediate* cause of death. In the anterior lobe of the left hemisphere of the cerebrum, there was a cavity the size of a walnut, containing sero-purulent fluid; the surrounding medullary substance was somewhat softened The heart was found considerably enlarged, the left ventricle, especially, was hypertrophied—the valves of the aorta were thickened and cartilaginous, and points of ossific deposits—one of which was as large as a split pea.

Dr. Pennington was one of the earliest members of the Chester County Medical Society, having participated in its formation in 1828. He was fond of his profession and took much interest in its advancement. He was gifted with a strong and comprehensive intellect, and few men possessed a greater degree of firmness of purpose and boldness of hand to execute the trying duties of his calling. He was fond of literary pursuits and read with great pleasure, the poets, both ancient and modern. In the performance of his social and domestic duties, he was ardent and unwearied. He was, indeed, a fond husband, an affectionate father, a kind neighbor, a skillful physician and a worthy citizen. He lived respected by a large circle of friends, and died lamented by all who knew him.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

Proceedings of the Chester County Medical Society.

A Stated Meeting of the Chester County Medical Society was held at West Chester, Jan. 29th, 1856. President—Dr. OGIER, in the Chair.

Members Present.—Drs. Thomas, W. Worthington, Ogier, Brinton, Parish, Edge, Gaston, W. H. Worthington, Walker, Swayne and Price.

The Committee to prepare a memoir of Dr. R. B. Dilworth, having failed to report—on motion, Dr. C. Swayne was added to the Committee.

Dr. Swayne proposed Dr. Benj. W. Thompson, of Jennerville, and Dr. Elisha Gatchel, of Kennett Square, for membership.

The Committee on printing Fee-Bill, laid upon the table 100 copies, which were directed to be handed to the Treasurer for distribution, and on motion, it was Resolved, that each member on receiving a copy shall pay into the hands of the Treasurer twenty-five cents, to defray the expenses of its publication.

On motion it was Resolved, That the publication of the "Reporter" be continued, and Drs. Brinton, Edge and Wm.

H. Worthington be a Committee to have the charge of the financial matters connected with the "Reporter."

Dr. Windle was ballotted for and duly elected a member of the Society.

Drs. Thomas, Edge, Walker, W. Worthington and Gaston, were elected delegates to the meeting of the American Medical Association; to be held in Detroit, in May next.

Dr. Brinton in compliance with appointment, read an essay upon "Sarsaparilla as an article of the Materia Medica," for which the thanks of the Society were tendered, and a copy requested for publication.

Dr. Brinton stated, in confirmation of the assertion of Dr. Chapman, that of a given number of perfectly vaccinated subjects exposed to the concentrated infection of Small Pox, three-fourths will take the disease in some form; that in a recent case of Small Pox under his care, three in the family, perfectly vaccinated, took varioloid, and one, said to have been inoculated, but who refused to undergo vaccination took true variola and died at the Poor-house, having asserted there, as is reported, that he had never been inoculated.

Dr. Parish stated that since the preparation of the paper published in the last number of the "Reporter," on the use of Prussiate of Iron in certain cases of Intermittent Fever, he had used the article extensively in such cases and with the most satisfactory results.

Dr. C. Swayne was appointed to prepare an essay to be read at the next stated meeting of the Society.

Adjourned.

JACOB PRICE, *Rec. Sect'ry.*

Sarsaparilla as an Article of the Materia Medica.—by J. B. Brinton, M. D.

At the stated meeting of the Chester County Medical Society in last October, I had the honor of an appointment to read an essay on some medical subject, at the present meeting.

I propose on this occasion to allude briefly to *Sarsaparilla* as *an article of the Materia Medica.*

Until the early part of the present century, the use of Sarsaparilla and its compounds was almost exclusively confined to France and Germany. The English and most of the profession in this country, were disposed to underrate its

virtues, and those who employed it were too frequently stigmatized as inert in their practice, and empirical in their motives. Remedies that produce an immediate and sensible impression on the system were universally preferred in almost all diseases, and it became the fashion to arrogate to ourselves the peculiar credit of prompt and efficacious practice. The physicians of France were especially despised for their attachment to weak remedies and simples.

The Hercules of medicine was supposed to labor there with a distaff, while in this country his strength was more magnanimously exerted in the wielding of such heroic remedies as Bark and Mercury.

Even so late a period as that of my private pupilage, one of the professors of Materia Medica in Philadelphia, was in the habit of ridiculing the employment of Sarsaparilla in every case, and he recommended the expunging of it as an article from the catalogue of remedies.

The extraordinary success of Swaim's Panacea, in the management of a variety of Chronic diseases, and the nearly equal reputation which Potter, and other similar *nostrum venders* began to acquire, soon called the attention to Sarsaparilla. Whatever ingredients may have been at different times mixed with these preparations, it never has been doubted that Sarsaparilla formed the basis of the empirical articles now alluded to.

It will be my object in the present essay to endeavor to point out how far this root may be considered useful, and designate the form of its administration, and the kinds of cases to which it is especially applicable. While a resident phyisician of the Philadelphia Alms House, I had a fair opportunity of witnessing its effects in a variety of forms as applied to a considerable number of diseases. I had also numerous opportunities of prescribing it while attending physician at the Chester co. Alms House. During the early part of my time in the Philad'a Alms House, Swaim's Panacea was extensively prescribed ; the *Syrup* of *Cuisinier* was however soon substituted, and with better effect. Professor Gibson was at the time a member of the medical board, and from him during the clinical lectures, I received a number of useful hints, while I shall in part avail myself of in this communication. My preceptor, Dr. G. McClellan, was also very much in the habit of prescribing it.

The black, withered, ligueous shavings which are often met with in the shops are of a very inferior quality. The pale,

yellow, soft, pliable, and somewhat pungent as well as saccharine to the taste, should be selected.

The first preparation of Sarsaparilla which I shall mention, is the *simple decoction*, which is generally prepared in an inefficient manner. In order to render the extractive matter soluble in water, the roots should first be cut into very short pieces. The pieces should then be boiled until they become soft, after which they should be pounded with a mallet or hammer, until they are contused into soft and small fragments. Then the whole should be thoroughly boiled until the water becomes thickened and impregnated with the extractive matter and sensible properties of the root.

Prepared in this way, Sarsaparilla becomes a gentle diaphoretic, which operates equally throughout the whole surface.—The skin becomes soft and relaxed, which shows a removal of all obstruction in the cutaneous capillaries.

I have on several occasions watched the secretion of urine, the quantity is increased, and becomes pale and watery. The mouth also grows clean and moist, and the state of the bowels is rendered more soluble. In short it appears that the remedy operates upon the whole of the capillary system of vessels, promoting the various secretions and exhalatious, and in this way removing chronic diseases, especially of the skin and glands. By determining the circulation to the surface and extremities of the body it also relieves various diseases of the internal parts and organs, and is particularly efficacious in chronic rheumatism, pneumonias, diseases of the bones, &c.

In consequence of the same effect on the capillary system, this medicine proves extremely serviceable in allaying irritability of the constitution as well as local irritation in particular parts of the body. It will sometimes reduce a quick and frequent pulse to the healthy standard, it tranquilizes uneasy and disturbing feelings—and it subdues inordinate and morbid excitement in the several organs of sense. After having overcome the inflammatory action and re-action of the various inflammations, it may almost always be given with good effects for the purpose of obviating such symptoms of irritability as generally remain to be combatted.

Notwithstanding that these effects may be derived from Sarsaparilla exhibited by itself, most practitioners are in the habit of compounding it with various other articles. It is combined in different cases with a number of other vegetable remedies, and also with various preparations from the miner-

al kingdom, all of which combinations are found to modify in some respects and to promote its operation.

First I will speak of its combination with other plants.—The most simple of these is the addition of Sasafras to the Sarsaparilla, which renders the preparation more palatable, and somewhat more active as a diaphoretic. To this some add the *Pipsissewa*, and I am of the opinion that this herb increases the alterative, as well as the diaphoretic properties of Sarsaparilla in a remarkable degree. Many physicians are addicted to this combination in Chvonic Rheumatism, and in Scrofulous affections. But the more generally received combination is with Mezereon and Guaicum wood, to the decoction of which the term "compound" is especially applied. These articles are unquestionably more stimulating and heating in their effects, and they are accordingly more useful in the relaxed and debilitated habits afflicted with the latter stages of Scrofula and Syphilis.

In the chronic kinds of Rheumatism they are also much used, especially after long perseverance in the antiphlogistic regimen, and the supervention of irritability and exhaustion.—Although the narcotic plants have never to my knowledge been combined with the sarsaparilla in decoction, still it is often highly advantageous to administer them at the same time, that the patient is using the decoction. For instance Cicuta is often given in pills to alleviate the painful irritation of venereal sores, the Belladonna, Stramonium, &c., to soothe the nocturnal pains in the bones; and opium or Dover's powder to relieve Rheumatic aches in the joints, while some preparation is drank in large quantities for the purpose of determining to the surface and eliminating the constitutional disease from the system.

By way of digression I would remark that I have under treatment at the present time, a case of Chronic Laryngitis, which has very much improved with the compound Sprup of Sarsaparilla and Iodid Potass. combined; this is a very common prescription.

Several years ago, in consultation, at the suggestion of Dr. Isaac Thomas, of this Society, I combined the Syrup with the Syrup of the Iodid of Iron, in a case having all the symptoms of *Phthisis pulmonalis*; there was a sensible improvement and the patient eventually recovered. The prescription was Syrup Sarsaparilla, comp. ℥viij Syrup. Iodid Ferri: ℥ss mx. dose, a dessert spoonfull morning, noon and evening.

The most active and important adjuvants are derived from the mineral kingdom. Mercurials, antimonials, preparations of gold and arsenic and some of the chemical products derived from the sea and the earth may all be considered in this light, and are resorted to with manifest advantage in particular cases of disease.

The *compound Syrups* are now generally preferred. They are in general so much stronger than the decoctions that a table spoonful of syrup is supposed to be about equal to half a gill or more of the decoction.

Having given this general sketch of the preparations in general use, I will now describe the different forms which I have seen used by others, and which I have had occasion to employ in my practice.

I will endeavor to explain the mode in which the various adjuvants may be employed advantageously. During my private pupilage I saw the simple decoction of Sarsaparilla very much employed, and it appeared to me with decisive advantage.

In cases of Rheumatism, Pneumonia, &c., after premising, bleeding and purgatives, &c., &c., I have known from a pint to quart taken every day, containing two or three grains of Tart. Emetic with good effect. This prescription would almost invariably produce diaphoresis and more or less relief. Several severe cases of inflammatory rheumatism were treated altogether on this plan, with the exception of a few bleedings and purgatives.

It appeared to be a fact that such patients recovered much more speedily and with much less debility and constitutional irritation than usually attends the common course of treatment.

In the commencement of the secondary symptoms of Syphilis, I have resorted to this combination, and persevered in its use for several days before giving any of the forms of mercury. There was sometimes too much inflammatory, action and fever, in its secondary as well as primary symptoms to admit of mercurials. Their administration was therefore deferred until all heat in the skin and tension of the pulse had been removed by the Tartar Emetic and Sarsaparilla. In the other form of Syphilis, I believe it is the general practice of Surgeons to resort to the same combinations. Mr. Carmichael is quite explicit on this point, and I think his authority is very respectable and conclusive.

In the latter stages of true Syphilis, I mean in the decline

of the disease, I have been accustomed to administer the mercurial preparations with Sarsaparilla. For the copper colored blotches on the surface, and excavated ulcers in the throat, of true Syphilis, the Blue Pill is sometimes given in combination with Ipecacuanha—at the same time some of the preparations of Sarsaparilla are given. But in cases where the bowels are in good condition, I would prefer the corrosive sublimate in doses of $\frac{1}{8}$ of a grain dissolved in one gill of Sarsaparilla decoction and repeated morning, noon and evening. When Syphilis affects the bones, especially so as to produce painful affections and swelling, we were in the habit in the Alms House of exhibiting cicuta and Corrosive Sublimate with Sarsaparilla. Of late years the Iodid of Potass. in large doses is preferred. I have seen some frightful cases cured by it.

Sometimes, however, a stronger narcotic will be required than cicuta to allay the nocturnal pains. Dover's powder in doses of 12 or 15 grains, will generally answer if given just before bed time.

In some cases I have used the Stramonium or Belladona, in doses from one to three grains, morning, noon and evening. I wish now particularly to draw the attention of this society to an article which has been but little used by the profession, I mean the *muriate of gold* in small portions, in combination with Sarsaparilla. Its action on the system is somewhat similar to mercury. It quickens the pulse, flushes the cheeks, reddens the lips, tongue and gums. It finally produces a slight discharge of sweetish and limpid saliva, but never, I believe swells or ulcerates the fauces. The gums become fringed with small red vessels, when its action is freely developed. I have known this action kept up steadily for several weeks.

In cases of inveterate *Herpes*, great advantage may be derived from the use of Fowler's solution, with Sarsaparilla, six drops of the solution, morning, noon and evening, at the same time that one of the preparation of Sarsaparilla is steadily used. I am confident that I have seen this combination prove effectual, where neither alone would have answered.

In scrofula I have used one of the preparations of Sarsaparilla (I allude to the Syrup of Cuisinier) with great effect. This at one time was considered an empirical preparation. Several different preparations are now prepared, and are known to be nothing more than this plant in Syrup, improved by the addition of small portions of Corrosive Sublimate. I

would remark, by the way, that it is probable, that they owe their extensive application to the fact that only a very small proportion of the Sublimate is given with them. By long keeping this salt becomes decomposed and chiefly precipitated, so that not enough can be given to produce irritation or erythism in plethoric and and inflammatory habits. In scrofula this is particularly true. Large doses irritate while small ones compose the system. I have seen gr$\frac{1}{8}$ of a grain do harm in scrofula, and induce phagaderic action in venereal sores—but on reducing the dose to the one-20th of a grain the same ulcers have assumed a healthy aspect.

In the 3d number of the Medical Reporter, there is an interesting article by Wm. H. Worthington of this society, on the Syrup of Elderberries, as a substitute for the compound Syrup of Sarsaparilla. Dr. Worthington recommends this syrup to the profession, chiefly upon the recommendation of Dr. Stratton, a respectable practitioner of the State of New Jersey. In conclusion I would remark that I am entirely satisfied that many of the failures in the treatment of disease by Sarsaparilla are owing to its being of an inferior quality, and the manner of preparing it.

Essay read before the Chester County Medical Society, Oct. 30th, 1855, by Dr. Wm. H. Gunkle.

In conformity with the Regulations of this Society, it becomes by duty to add a mite in form of an Essay, to advance the interests of our common profession.

Although feeble it is, I hope it may prove acceptable, or at least, free me from the obligations I am under to the Society as a member. In selecting a subject, I fear it would be futile for me to attempt to introduce anything new in the theory and practice of medicine, that would be interesting to the Society. At this period of my professional career, I do not feel competent to advance anything new—theoretical or practical—in the treatment of disease; this I leave for older and more experienced minds; those who have grown grey in the careful watchings at the bed-side of the unfortunate subjects of disease; they have had almost a lifetime of experience, battling off the monster death. They must necessarily, from long experience in practice, have minds well stored with useful information.

Can it be considered unkind, unfair or ungenerous, for the

young practitioner to ask the privilege of listening to and learning from these veterans? Would we be asking anything more than our just rights if we would request the older members of the society to impart some of their information for the benefit of the youthful aspirants in the profession? I became a member of the organization hoping to be benefitted by the experience of the older members. In this point I am somewhat disappointed. At our last meeting, we were very pointedly informed that the "older members were already jaded and worn down by the cares and burthens of the profession, and that it was the duty of the young aspirants to work." We admit that it is our duty to work; but at the same time we need all the light and assistance our older brethren can afford us. By their co-operation we may be able to accomplish something in the end for the benefit of our fellow men and posterity.

The subject which I have selected to bring before your notice, is one that has long been buffeted by the profession as though it had no legitimate demands thereon. Therefore the greater the necessity that the evil should be no longer acknowledged in that light, but rather should be considered paramount to many of the diseases and deformities flesh is heir to.

TALIPES.

Talipes is by no means an uncommon malformation, probably the greater number of cases met with are congenital, but occasional cases may be seen that are caused by disease. It matters not whether it is congenital or whether it is the secondary effects of disease, it demands prompt and energetic treatment on the part of those who have charge of the case, so that the unfortunate beginner in the world may not have his earthly career trammelled with such deformed and unsightly understandings.

By consulting different authors, both ancient and modern, we find the subject passed over as lightly as possible. Detmold, of New York, in an essay published in the New York Journal of Med. and Surgery, gives us the best dissertation on that subject that I have been able to lay ho'd of. By his mode of treatment, the operation of tenotomy is indispensible.

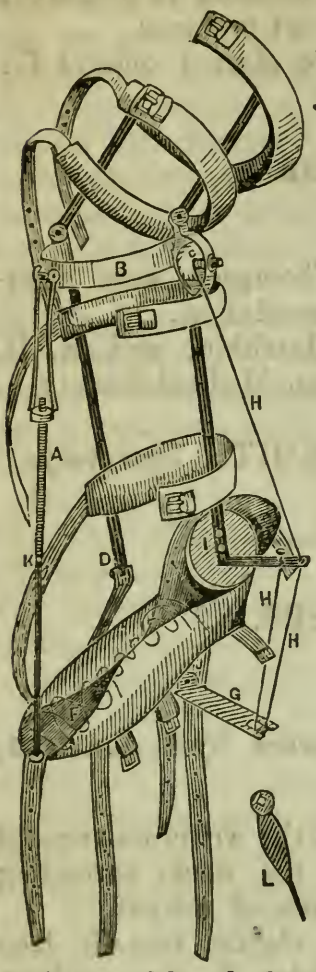
Of the several varieties of club-foot I wish to notice but one, Talipes Varus, which is considered the worst variety of the malformation, and by most surgeons incurable without a

cutting operation. After this operation has been performed, and proper instruments applied, many cases may be successfully remedied I admit, but whether this operation is admissible in all such cases is a question, particularly where there is an atrophied condition of the limbs. After severing the ends of the tendons of the contracted muscles and bringing the foot around to its natural position, the parts of the tendons must necessarily be separated a considerable distance.—Nature is expected to fill up this space by the granular process. These granulations are thrown out from the several ends of the tendons until they meet and form a complete union. Admitting this to be the case, do not these granulations unite the tendon firmly to the surrounding tissue, and materially obstruct the action of the muscle for life? And when we find the limbs imperfectly developed, muscles extremely small and weak, a feeble circulation of blood, can we expect a favorable issue from the operation of tenotomy? I judge you will concur with me in saying these are objections to be considered before adopting the cutting plan of treatment for talipes, when the contractions of the antagonistic muscles can be overcome by traction properly applied, and the case as successfully remedied without exposing the patient to the risk of non-union and the other unpleasant effects of the operation.

A case came under my care of a boy six years old, who was completely crippled by Talipes Varus. His only means of locomotion was on his hands and knees—had no power over his legs whatever; from the knees down, his limbs were in a complete state of atrophy; muscles little else than tendon. By the aid of a chair he could raise himself up in a standing posture; when in this position his feet were inverted, the weight of the body resting on the external malleolus and dorsum of the foot—toes drawn in so as to form almost a right angle with the inside of the legs. In this position they could not support the body without the aid of the hands.—In short I considered this one of the cases in which the operation of tenotomy was not advisable, and yet something was to be done to better the condition of my patient. This I conceived could be accomplished by traction properly applied, but I knew of no instrument that would meet the indications. Therefore, it was necessary for me to invent something that the case required.

The instrument which I claim to have invented and used in the above described case, with very happy effect, (for the

boy is now walking as well as any of his brothers and sisters, and almost without any apparent deformity) is described by the accompanying wood engraving.



It consists of two steel splints running up the leg and thigh, with knee joints and an ankle joint D. The inner splint passes down underneath the foot and is bent at right angles with itself—continues an inch and a half outside of the steel sole F. The outer splint is bent at right angles with the leg and is the same length as G, perforated in two places near the extremity to allow the passage of the cord or catgut H H H, which is transfixed in the inner orifice and passes down over the pulley in the end of the lever G and back through the outer orifice to the roller C, which has a ratchet wheel attached, guarded by a steel spring that works in the ratchet wheel and prevents the cord from escaping off the roller. This roller is worked by the wrench L to overcome the contractions of the lateral and anterior muscles. I is a circular padd, resting on the external malleolus. The steele sole F works on pivots set in the lever G so as to accommodate itself to any position the gastrocnemius muscle will allow the foot to be in. B is an anterior steel band, fixed firm in the leg splints just below the knee joint. A is a screw which works loose in an eye of the plate F and passes up to the band B. K is a small orifice in A to admit the small end of the wrench L, by which means the screw is worked to overcome the contractions of the posterior muscles of the leg.

The instrument can be used with advantage when the operation had been performed and partial union has taken place.

Proceedings of the Delaware County Medical Society.

The annual meeting of the Delaware County Medical Society, was held at the Charter House, Media, on Tuesday,

February 26th, 1856. The President, Dr. Manly Emanuel, in the chair.

The committee appointed at the last meeting to prepare a Biographical Sketch of Dr. Wilson, report progress.

The following named gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year:

President—Dr. Manly Emanuel.

Vice President—Dr. Joseph Rowland.

Secretary—Dr. R. H. Smith.

Treasurer—Dr. Joshua Owen.

Drs. John T. Huddleson and A. P. Thompson, were elected delegates to the National Medical Association.

Drs. C. J. Morton, M. Emanuel, Hotchkin, and R. H. Smith, were elected delegates to the State Medical Society.

On motion adjourned.

Attest—R. H. SMITH, Secretary.

REPORTS OF CASES.

Case of Hydrocele of the Neck.—Reported by S. A. Ogier, M. D.

In October, 1854, Mrs. B., consulted the writer on account of a large tumor on the right side of the neck, extending from the clavicle to within a short distance of the ear.

On examination it was found to be elastic, smooth, free from pain—obscure fluctuation; in color it was uniform with the rest of the skin; *pulsation* was evident both to the eye and touch, but a very slight examination was sufficient to show that the pulsation was communicated to it by the artery beneath, without there being any connection with it. The account given by the patient was that she first noticed it about two years prior to her consulting me, when it was about the size of a chesnut. Its situation was then just above the clavicle; it increased slowly till within the last eight months; during this time its growth was rapid. She had by the direction of her physician been using the Iodine ointment with the view of dispersing it. She could assign no cause for its existence. The only trouble she experienced was an unpleasant sensation in swallowing—its unsightly appearance and a slight cough she also attributed to its presence.

After this history from herself and pretty careful examination, I viewed it as that form of encysted tumour denominated "Hydrocele of the Neck" and proposed to operate for its cure. The case being of comparatively rapid growth with probably a thin sac I concluded to adopt the following method:

A moderate sized trocar was introduced into the lower part of the tumour and a little over four ounces of clear straw colored fluid drawn off. A tent composed of a roll of fine linen was then carefully introduced into the sac and a compress and roller pretty firmly applied—the object of course was to induce adhesive inflammation.

The case was then left with a medical friend who kindly undertook its care for me; pressing cases in his own business, however, prevented his attending to it, and on my visit a week following the operation, I found the tent had been long out, the orifice healed and the sac filling up, much to my disappointment.

I concluded to allow the sac again to fill up, when I would attempt to effect a cure by some other means. At the end of two weeks the sac was as full and tense as when I first saw it. The operation by seton was now proposed to the patient and acceded to by her.

Into the upper part of the sac an incision was made and a probe armed with a seton introduced and carried to the most depending part, when its point was cut on and the probe withdrawn, after being liberated from the seton. The contents of the sac were about the same in quantity as that first drawn off, though much paler in color. An emollient poultice was applied and constituted the only dressing till suppuration was well established—cold water dressing was then substituted for a few days, after which time all applications were withheld, the seton being allowed to remain till the end of the sixth week, when the sac having been obliterated, it was withdrawn, the orifice soon healed and the cure was completed.

In the Medical Examiner for May, 1850, will be found an article from the pen of Professor Mutter, on "Hydrocele of the Neck," detailing its history, symptoms and treatment, from which it will be seen that until a comparatively recent date its "true character had been overlooked." Previous to the publication of memoir on the subject by Professor Maunior, of Geneva, and even subsequently, these tumors were confounded with Bronchoceles. A committee appointed to examine the subject, reported that all the cases of Professor Maunior "were nothing more than softened Bronchoceles."

Within a few years Professor Mütter continues, numerous examples of "Hydrocele of the Neck" have occurred in the practice of different surgeons, all of whom unite in defining the disease to be a tumour or tumours filled with a serous fluid and occupying any part of the neck. Two varieties of the affection are mentioned by him. First, congenital—second, accidental, or acquired. Symptoms—usually the tumour is smooth upon the surface, of the natural color of the integument, fluctuates and is *free from all pulsation, unless placed directly over a large artery, or partially emptied.*"—In the Diagnosis he again refers to the absence of pulsation in these words:

"The absence of pulsation is then a characteristic of Hydrocele of the Neck, and this fact should ever be borne in mind in making up our opinion in doubtful cases."

O'Burne has well explained the cause of the absence of pulsation even where the tumor *is in contact* with the artery. He observes, "in every stage of the tumour, the sac is so filled that little or no motion is permitted between the particles composing its fluid,and consequently, according to a received axiom in physics, these particles are incapable of transmitting in any sensible degree, the impulse communicated to them by the beating of subjacent arteries,until a certain portion of the fluid contents shall have been evacuated."

In the case I have reported, it will be seen that I have given pulsation as one of the symptoms. The pulsation in this case offered no serious difficulty in making out the diagnosis, but that it was present in a marked degree may be inferred from the remark of a medical friend who saw the case. He observed from the pulsation it might to a superficial examiner be mistaken for aneurism. I mention this particularly, as I have known a case to be so regarded, and the disease suffered to exist for a long time under the impression that it was a case beyond the reach of ordinary skill.

EDITORIAL.

We wish to have a few plain words with our readers upon a subject, which, perhaps more than any other, has recently occupied the attention of the thinking part of the profession.—We refer to medical organization. We can best convey what we have in mind, by considering—first, the means best calcu-

lated to accomplish this object. Second, the beneficial effects that will flow from it, and lastly the duty of individual members of the profession in the matter.

First, then, as to the means of accomplishing a thorough system of Medical Organization. In the present arrangement there are three grades, the American Medical Association, the State Societies and the County or Local Societies.—The first two are the most pretending, and their publications embody, in a tangible form, the fruits of the system. Yet a little reflection is enough to establish the fact that they are utterly tributary to the local societies—that their vitality and efficiency are altogether dependent upon the vitality and efficiency of the county societies. These, like the abutments of a bridge, may be unpretending almost and unseen, yet they are not the less important, for upon them the whole imposing superstructure rests. To these therefore, must the attention of those who have at heart the welfare of the profession be directed, and no pains or sacrifices spared to call them into existence wherever required, and when in existence to infuse into them, vitality and energy.

Second, the beneficial effects. We have not the time or space to do more than glance at these. The organization is far, very far, from being complete. Perhaps in more than two-thirds of the counties in the country, there is no organization whatever, and in a large number of those that have formed societies, they drag on a languishing existence, receiving the countenance and support of but a few of the more industrious and public spirited of the profession, while the great mass, bent upon schemes of self-aggrandizement, have no time to bestow upon a movement which to their narrow vision, does not seem to pay.

Yet, imperfect as is the organization, and recent its existence, it has already accomplished great results. It has brought together and united in one band, a vast number of the most talented and enterprising physicians throughout the country. As "iron sharpeneth iron," it has stimulated them to renewed exertions to advance the best interest of the profession

and the welfare of the public. It has enabled them with the skill and confidence of trained veterans, to oppose a united front to the ravages of disease on the one hand, and the assaults of empirics upon the other.

The numerous volumes of "*Transactions*" issued by the National and State Associations, present doubtless many defects, at which the cynical may level the shafts of sneering criticism. Yet it cannot be denied, that they embody a vast amount of scientific and practical information that could be elicited in no other way. Were, indeed, these associations to cease to exist without doing more than they have already done, they would forever mark an important epoch in the history of the profession in this country, and the volumes they have issued would stand as imperishable monuments of the industry and skill of American physicians. Organization thus partial and imperfect, having in so short a time accomplished so much, what may we not expect should the scheme be perfected? Then from the crowded streets of the metropolis to the scarcely beaten path of the frontier settlement, would be found an army of trained observers, catechizing nature and eliciting facts in the history and management of disease, which, collated and classified by the central association, would be of incalcuable value to every physician. The mind can scarcely grasp the results that might be accomplished.—Fellow Practitioners, shall it be done? This brings us to the consideration of the duties of individual members of the profession in relation to this subject.

Of those who have neglected or refused to join in the movement, we would ask, what is it you expect to do?—Surely you are not willing to remain utterly indifferent to every effort at medical improvement. We presume you are ready to do something. If you have a better plan of action, let us hear it—if not, how can you reconcile it with duty, not to join heartily with your brethren in this movement? See to it, that you do not allow prej dice to deter you from the proper line of action. You may see unworthy men taking an officious part in these associations and be ready to turn your backs

upon them with disgust, but remember that their conduct furnishes no excuse for your neglect of duty.

To those who have enlisted as members of county societies, we say, thus far we have done well, but do not imagine that our duty ends here. We may be of no more use in the society than out of it. Constant action is what is wanted.—Unceasing vigilance to observe, and the industry to report such facts as may be of interest to the profession. The self-sacrifice to frequently attend the meetings of the society, and contribute our share toward rendering them interesting and instructive. Nor do our duties end here. We must, by our uniform deportment give unmistakeable evidence that in our zeal for professional improvement, we have forgotten neither the courtesy that is due to our fellow practitioners, nor those higher duties which as christians and citizens, we owe to the community in which we live.

American Medical Association.—The ninth annual meeting of this Association will be held at Detroit, in May next. The sessions heretofore have been intensely interesting, and we know of no reason why this should fall behind others. It will no doubt, even without the attractions of the lake country, at this beautiful season of the year, richly repay the trouble of attendance. Drs. Thomas, Edge, W. Worthington, Walker and Gaston of Chester county and Drs. John T. Huddleson and A. P. Thompson of Delaware county, have been elected delegates.

Small Pox.—This loathsome disease has prevailed in the city of Philadelphia during the present winter, to a greater extent than has been known for many years. We have not at hand the tables of mortality for the time, but if our recollection is correct, the greatest mortality from this disease during any one week, was about thirty. In various parts of Chester county a few cases have occurred. In nearly every instance the origin has been traced to the city. In West Chester, there have been, we believe, but two cases of true variola and eight or ten cases of varioloid.

Death of Prof. Pennypacker.—This event so unexpected, to his numerous friends, took place on the 13th of Feb., after a short illness. In the fullness of health and vigor, and in the midst of his career of usefulness, Dr. Pennypa cker has been cut down—his family without warning, called upon to mourn an irreparable bereavement, and the public to deplore the loss of a most excellent citizen and beloved physician.—We are indebted to Dr. Jacob Pennypacker for the following particulars of his illness and death.

"On Saturday, the 2d of February, Prof. Pennypacker went to the College to attend a meeting of the Professors.—While there, some one of them observed a tumefaction in the regions of the Parotid Glands, and said to him, "why doctor, you are getting the mumps." Before he left the College, he was attacked by a chill, which, after reaching home, was followed by a high fever, severe pain in the head and a tendency to delirium. On the next day, (Sunday) Erysipelas made its appearance on his face. He was attended by Drs. Tyson and Brinkley, and also, towards the conclusion of his case by Dr. J. K. Mitchell, of the Jefferson Medical College. He died on Wednesday evening, Feb. 13th, at 6½ o'clock. His body was interred in the Mennonist burying ground, Phœnixville, on Saturday, Feb. 16th, attended by a large concourse of his friends and former neighbors. Dr. Pennypacker was in his 44th year, at the time of his death."

We subjoin the following brief extract from the recent valedictory address of Prof. Hartshorn of the Philadelphia College of Medicine, as showing the estimation in which Dr. Pennypacker was held by his colleagues.

"Gentlemen, in the death of Professor Pennypacker, you and I, the Institution honored by his services—the Medical Profession, have met with no common loss. More brilliant men, there may, perhaps, have been, although his abilities were of a very high order—more profuse in learning, although a ripe judgment, ample experience, and wide research, made him a Teacher truly eminent in his vocation—men of more varied accomplishments there may have been, or more popular ad-

dress, but an honester, true-hearted man, God never made upon this earth!"

Although Dr. Pennypacker removed, two years ago to the city, to occupy the chair of Practice in the Philadelphia College of Medicine, yet his long residence and wide spread acquaintance in this county, entitle his memory to a place in the Profession here. The Biographical Committee of the Chester County Medical Society will therefore, in due time, prepare a brief sketch of his life for publication.

We take from the Ledger the following notice of the election to fill the place held by Dr. Pennypacker:

"Dr. Alfred T. King, of Greensburg, Pa., a gentleman eminent in his profession, and of high scientific acquirements, has been elected by the Board of Corporators, to the Chair of Practice in the Philadelphia College of Medicine, made vacant by the decease of Prof. Isaac A. Pennypacker."

Dr. I. J. Hayes.—The return of this gentleman, after his long absence in the Arctic regions, with the Kane expedition, has been the source of heart-felt gratulations on the part of his relatives and numerous personal friends. Many incidents of thrilling interest occurred during the cruise—and facts and observations, highly interesting to the profession, came under the Doctor's notice, as Surgeon to the expedition;—some of which he has promised, at a proper time, to communicate for the pages of the "Reporter." The official character of everything connected with the expedition, prevents him from publishing anything of his own until after the official documents shall have been issued. He has on three or four occasions gratified his fellow citizens by addressing them upon subjects connected with the expedition. He is at present absent upon a lecturing tour in the West.

The present number completes the third volume of the "*Reporter*," and as the numbers thus far issued will form a covenient sized volume for binding, we have appended a title page and complete index.

A case recently came under our notice, which forcibly illustrates the necessity of the diffusion of sufficient physiological knowledge among the people, to enable attendants to act with judgment in cases of similar emergencies, and also of accident.

Are not Physicians remiss in their duty to the public, in neglecting to interest themselves, more generally, in the diffusion of such knowledge? A lady, before the arrival of her Physician, was delivered of a strong and well formed child. The membranes were entire, and the attendants being utterly ignorant as to the proper course to pursue, the child perished. It exhibited signs of life for twenty minutes after delivery. A very moderate amount of knowledge and presence of mind, would have enabled any one to save the life of the child, and have filled the hearts of the parents with joy, instead of the grief that now oppresses them.

Protective Influence of Vaccination.—We clip the following item from the news by a late arrival from Europe:

"According to the Berlin obituary lists of last year, a remarkable and interesting hygienic circumstance is made known, namely, that not a single case of death from small-pox occurred during that period. This is justly considered as striking evidence of the benefits of compulsory vaccination, and the care taken by the faculty to procure healthy vaccine matter."

Chester County Medical Society.—A stated meeting will be held at the White Hall Hotel, West Chester, on Tuesday, the 29th of April, at 11 o'clock. The President, Dr. Ogier will deliver the annual address. Dr. Swayne, by appointment, will read an essay. The members of the Society and other Physicians interested in the cause of Medical Organization are invited to attend.

Delaware County Medical Society.—A stated meeting will be held at the Charter House, Media, on Tuesday, the 27th of May.

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE.

External Employment of Oil of Turpentine in Consolidated Lungs from Pneumonia.—One of the most interesting features we have recently noticed in Dr. Todd's practice, at King's College Hospital, is a plan of treating solidified lungs and strumous pneumonia by turpentine—a mode not new, possibly, but eminently valuable, and one in which Dr. Todd seems to gain greater confidence every session. If we dwell on minor points of this character, it is because we see such cases too often overlooked, as they present themselves in the out-patients' department of hospitals, and because this medicine has been the secret of many reputed cures of consumption amongst practitioners, outside of the profession.

J. B——, aged twenty-one, was admitted into King's College Hospital, October 2d, suffering under various symptoms of chest disease, the result of a severe attack of pneumonia. Dr. Todd pointed out to his class that the entire lung of one side was completely solidified. This lung had, in all probability, gone through the three stages of pneumonia so familiar in practice, but often so very unmanageable in their results, the first and second stages of pneumonic inflammation usually merging into one another, and leaving the lung quite solid.

The first, or congestive stage, is easily cured, when detected early, as we recently took occasion to show in cases in the practice of Dr. Willshire and Dr. Parkes. The second stage, in which these congested vessels relieve themselves by fibrinous exudation into the lung, and slight hæmorrhage, as shown in the characteristic rust-coloured expectoration, is also very curable. It is not very well named, perhaps, as hepatization, in which the lung is sprinkled sometimes with pinky granulations, and which Bayle and others look upon as the first stage of tubercular disease. Dr. Todd also described the exudation into the parts, with its granular blastema, blood-corpuscles, and exudation-cells, the latter, perhaps, traceable from the state of granular corpuscles to that consolidated stage where we now meet it, or the third stage of the disease—that of grey hepatization, with its various mottlings or spotting of the lung. A purulent fluid sometimes exudes, yet this is not essentially a state of suppuration, though very nearly allied to it; it is also different from tubercle, though in many cases next door to it,—the chief practical point, to Dr. Todd, being,

that the consolidation of pneumonia does not necessarily destroy the vesicular structure of the lung, no more than effusion into the iris, in iritis, removable by mercury, destroys the structure of that delicate part; the inflammatory effusion, in pneumonia, occurring almost universally through the lung tissue, as well as *into* the air cells, and the intervesicular tissue. In a very advanced stage of pneumonia, it is true, we may have pulmonary abscess. This was evidently not the case in the present instance. The treatment adopted by Dr. Todd and which he finds most effectual, was the following:—Wine, six ounces, daily; a draught every third hour, composed of julep of acetate of ammonia, with aromatic spirits of ammonia in excess; and strong turpentine stupes, carefully applied, every night and morning, over the back of the chest and site of the consolidated lung. Diet moderately stimulating.

October 4th.—On seeing this patient two days after, we found that he had already begun to improve; the lung, previously quite dead, as far as respiratory murmur was concerned, began to give signs of healthy vesicular murmur. The right lung, as will have been observed, is most usually that affected. Dr. Todd has great faith in the stimulant action of turpentine—a remedy not often used, but which in this and numerous other cases has proved almost specific in its action. In phthisical cases, also, it may be used, combined with strong acetic acid, when its action becomes even still more beneficial.

25th.—This man is quite well.—*Lancet.*

On Albumen as a Cholagogue.—By Dr. R. Gieseler, of *Gottingen.*

I am anxious to call the attention of the profession, briefly, to the employment of the albumen of hen's eggs in certain forms of jaundice.

Bernard's experiments, showing that this substance is assimilable only through the intervention of the hepatic function immediately suggested to me the idea that in albumen we might find an adequate excitant of the liver. I inferred, first, that fatty nutriment, and in a higher degree, albuminous articles of diet must be avoided in inflammation of the liver; and secondly, that in torpid conditions of that organ we might possess in albumen a remedy capable of stimulating it to increased activity. If to the liver be assigned the task of rendering albumen adapted to assimilation, this substance must be a stimulant of it, which will, *mutatis mutandis*, set its function to

work in the same manner as the administration of saline medicines does that of the kidneys. It is scarcely necessary to add, that the establishment of these results by experience must secure to albumen not merely the character of an adequate stimulant, but also pre-eminence over all other so-called cholagogues, since the action of the latter is very uncertain.

I think it unnecessary to demonstrate the remarkable efficiency of albumen in this respect by the recital of cases, since it was, as I soon learned, already known to our predecessors. It, however, appears to me not unimportant to point out the sources whence it would appear the recommendation to employ albumen as a remedy in jaundice was orignally derived. Charles White, in his work on "The Treatment of Pregnant and Puerperal Women," states, that he once suffered for several weeks from jaundice, and was very much reduced. Soap, aloes, iron and rhubarb had been taken without the least benefit. A navy officer, happening to visit him, assured him he would cure him in a short time. He told him, in fact, that while on a voyage some time before, he was attacked with the same disease, and had in vain used the remedies prescribed by the surgeon of the vessel. A Spanish physican of the island of Minorca then advised him to take every morning, while fasting two raw eggs, both yolk and white, in a glass of water, and to repeat the dose with one egg every four hours during the day. He followed this advice, and in three days his motions were again colored with bile. White tried the plan suggested, and found the effect attributed to the albumen to be confirmed; in three days the fæces were colored, which they had not been for six weeks before. He continued the use of the eggs for some months.—He subsequently recommended the remedy to several patients, and always with good effect, except in cases in which the jaundice proceeded from the presence of gallstones. So far for the testimony of Mr. White. In the more modern treaties of therapeutics I have not been able to find any allusion to this application of albumen; the present communication cannot, therefore, be considered superfluous. A few of the older works recommended, not white of eggs, but the yolk, probably on account of its yellow color. It is indeed possible that the action of the liver may be excited, not by the vitellin of the yolk, but merely by the albumen of the egg, with which Bernard experimented, and which White recommended in jaundice. Should this supposition prove correct, it would explain why the remedy lapsed into oblivion, and would furnish

an important proof in our day for the often misunderstood truth, that practical results do not become the property of science or art, until they are referred to correct principles.—*Dublin Quarterly Journal, from Zeitschrift fur Rationelle Medicin.*

Treatment of Laryngitis by the Insufflation of Powdered Nitrate of Silver.—By M. EBERT.

M. Ebert observes that every surgeon who has attempted the application of solutions of nitrate of silver to the larynx, must be convinced of its difficulty, if not impossibilty. Indeed, he doubts whether the fluid ever reaches that organ at all; and in two cases of croup, in which the attempt was made by a most expert surgeon, he found after death that not a trace had penetrated into the larynx itself. In repeated attempts in the dead body he has constantly failed to introduce a sponge mounted upon a whalebone, and only after manœuvering could he get a silver cathether to enter. How much more difficult must it be, then, during life, when the very attempt stimulates all the neighboring muscles to resistance.

On the other hand, nitrate of silver, in powder, may be introduced by the simplest agency. We all know how easily pulverulent substances, drawn in unawares by a deep inspiration, enter the larynx, and give rise to irritating cough.—Trousseau was the first to apply this fact to the treatment of of laryngeal affections by nitrate of silver; and Professor Burow, of Konigsberg, speaks very highly of this mode. He mixed three grains of arg. nitr. with one drachm of saccharum lactis, and caused the patient to insufflate daily as much as would lie in the barrel of a steel pen. Chronic laryngitis, which had gone on to the production of complete aphonia, was thus cured in a few weeks. Since he saw this account, M. Ebert has used the same mixture with surprising success in several cases of laryngitis. So minutely does the sugar of milk divide the nitrate, that if even a small portion of the powder only reach the larnyx, it will still contain its proportion of the nitrate. He administers it in the following way. A steel pen, charged with as much powder as it will hold, is attached to one end of the barrel of a quill, which is also open at the other end. This is introduced far enough into the mouth to bring the steel pen opposite the root of the tongue. The lips are now closed around the quill, and the nostrils compressed, while the patient is desired to draw in air rapidly and forcibly through the quill-barrel. Almost every one

fails at first, but all succeed on the second or third attempt—the cough and irritation of the larynx announcing the penetration of the powder there. Even delicate females and children easily practice the insufflation,and will repeat it for days or weeks together. Young children may have it administered by an apparatus contrived by Professor Burow. M. Ebert has as yet only employed the remedy in laryngitis; and he briefly relates six cases of its successful application.—*Annalen des Charite Krankenhauses.*

BIOGRAPHICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dr. Joseph Griffith was the second son of Jonathan and Sarah Griffith, repectable members of the Society of Friends. He was born in Richland township, Bucks county, Pa., on the 29th of August, 1790.

While in his minority he had no other educational advantage than the limited ones afforded by the common schools of the vicinity. He at first engaged in agriculture, but soon after turned his attention to study, and under the care of a competent teacher in his vicinity, qualified himself for the profession of teaching, which vocation he pursued until the spring of 1815, when he commenced the study of Medicine at Charlestown-village, Chester county, under the direction of the late Dr. Samuel Nixon. He was a zealous and successful student, and after attending two courses of lectures in the University of Pennsylvania, he commenced the practice of Medicine near Lionville, Uwchlan township, Chester county. Two years after, he resigned his practice to his cousin, Dr. Ellis Lewis, whose pupil he became. He remained with Dr. Lewis a year, after which he attended a third course of lectures in the University of Pennsylvania and received the degree of Doctor of Medicine, in the spring of 1821. His inaugural thesis was upon Dysentery, a disease which prevailed extensively in his neighborhood, and in the management of which he was eminently successful.

After obtaining his degree he located at Kimberton, Chester county, where he soon gained an extensive practice, in which he incessantly labored until the time of his decease, a period of twenty-eight years.

In December, 1832, he was married to Miss Dorothy

Whiteside, an English lady, who, with six children, 4 sons and and 2 daughters, still (1850) survive him.

In practice, Dr. Griffith's preference was for Surgery and Obstetrics, in which departments he was particulary successful. In his intercourse with the sick, he was kind and sympathizing, and in an eminent degree secured the confidence and respect of the whole community in which he moved.—Towards the poor, he was never exacting, on the contrary his liberality often rendered him a prey to the dishonest and unprincipled. In his interccurse with his professional brethren he was courteous and honorable, strictly observing all the requirements of professional etiquette. Among all clases he was held in the highest esteem, and deep sorrow pervaded the community in which he lived upon the announcement of his sudden death, which occurred on the 10th of August, 1849, of Epidemic Cholera. He was attacked on the evening of the 8th of August, with symptoms resembling those of Cholera. Notwithstanding the application of remedies directed by himself, the symptoms continued to increase in severity. At 3 o'clock, P. M., he was persuaded to seek the advice of a professional friend—Dr. Isaac Z. Coffman was called, who appreciating the grave character of the case, called to his aid Dr. Wm. Davis. By the united exertions of these gentlemen, the symptoms were ameliorated and they were induced to hope for a favorable issue. This, however, proved illusive. On the morning of the 10th, to their extreme regret and the anguish of his family, collapse ensued, and he expired the same evening, at 6 o'clock, in the 59th year of his age.

NOTICE.—The attention of Physicians in Chester county is called to the fact, that the Sanatary Committee of the Chester County Medical Society, has as yet, received no report from them, of the sanatory condition of their respective localities, for the last year. It is earnestly desired that they give *immediate* attention to the subject and forward their reports to the Chairman of the Committee, Dr. Edge, of Downingtown, before the end of the present month, (April,) so that he may be enabled to prepare his report to the State Society. The absence of epidemic disease ought not to furnish an excuse to any physician for neglecting to forward his report for the year. The knowledge of this fact *alone*, is important to the Chairman in making out his report. The importance of having a full and useful statement of the diseases that have prevailed within the county during the past year, it is hoped, will be a sufficient inducement to comply with this request.

~~A B Side Out~~

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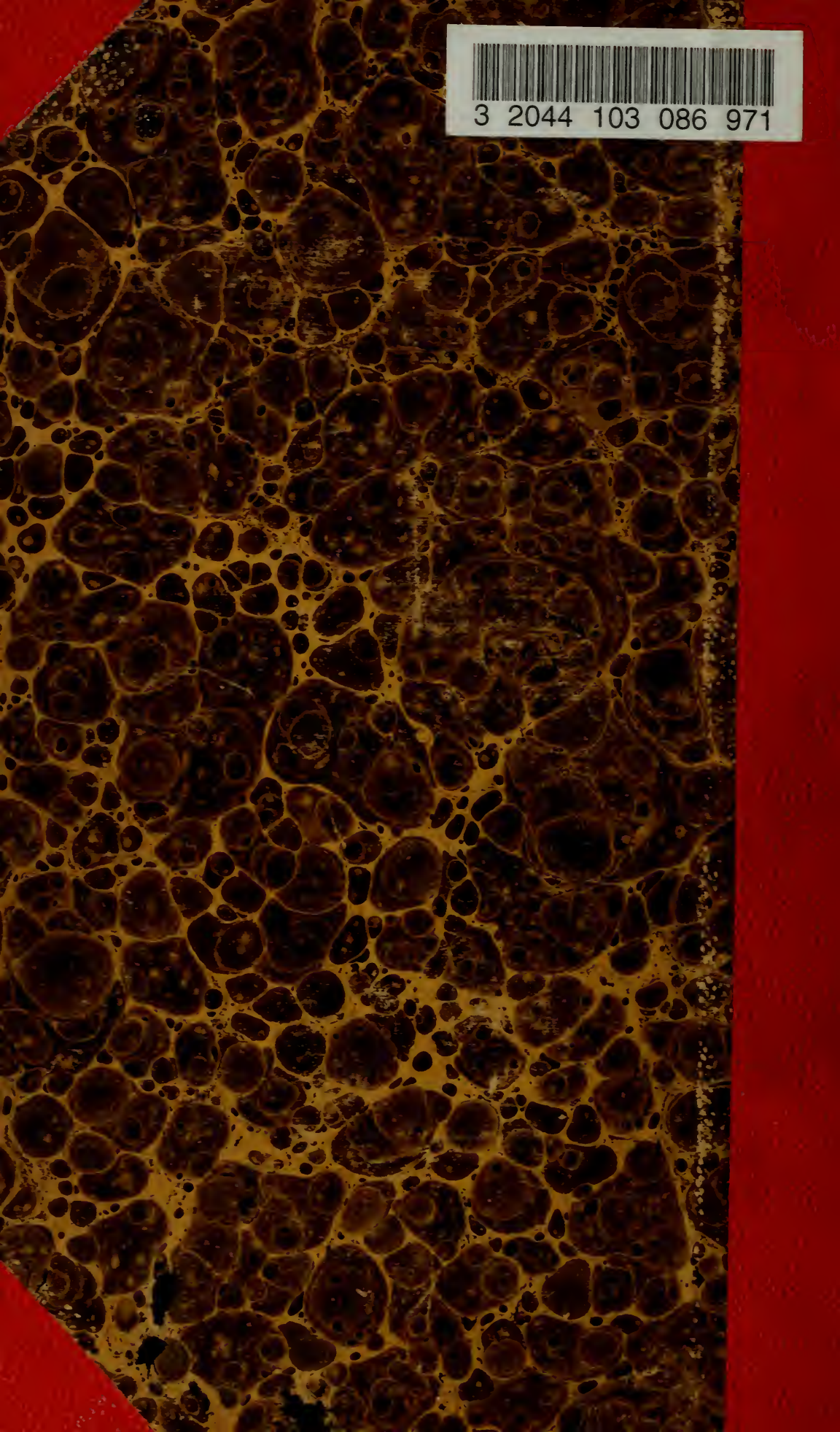
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